

The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**



CHERRIES CLOSE IN ON PLAY-OFF PLACES

Bournemouth v Tranmere match report – see page 15

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CRACKER JACK



Ten titles but
octogenarian
boxing trainer
still wants more

See pages 26-27

REVENGE!

Morgan out to
settle score
with Foxes



MORGAN Schneiderlin has warned Leicester that Saints will be out for revenge when the Foxes visit St Mary's next Monday night.

The sides are preparing to clash for the second time this season, after they played out a thrilling encounter earlier in the campaign.

It was late August when

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Nigel Adkins' men travelled to the King Power Stadium, where they fell victim to a 3-2 defeat.

There was certainly a sense of injustice among the Saints camp about the scoreline that day, after the visitors produced some outstanding passages of play.

Schneiderlin insists the squad haven't forgotten that, and he has declared they are determined to put it right in Monday's televised meeting.

"We've had seven days to work on the training pitch to face Leicester, and we know they are a great team," he said.

"We know that they are going to push until the end of the season to get promoted.

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**READY FOR
REVENGE:**
Morgan
Schneiderlin.

SAINTS



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right bunch of cards!**

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TERRY PAINE



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exclusive column.**

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WHEN Nigel Pearson returns to St Mary's on Monday night, the away changing room may seem unfamiliar – but a few of those occupying the home side's won't.

Having been the Saints boss around four years ago, you might expect it to be some of the players that would bring back happy memories of Pearson's time on the south coast.

But with most of them having long since left the club, it will actually be the Saints management team with whom Pearson will no doubt share a handshake and a smile.

Pearson walked through the St Mary's door in mid-February 2008, having been appointed by Leon Crouch and Lawrie McMenemy.

George Burley had moved on to become Scotland national team manager and a spell of Jason Dodd and John Gorman in caretaker charge could go on no longer.

Pearson's first game was against Plymouth, but as he didn't pick the team – the 2-0 Argyle defeat came so soon after his appointment – his first proper match in charge was a trip to Scunthorpe.

Of course, Nigel Adkins was the opposition manager that day.

But, just as significantly, the man who would join Adkins at Saints as his assistant, Andy Crosby, was in the starting line-up for Scunthorpe.

Pearson knew he needed to get Saints off to a flying start and he could barely have asked for better than seeing his side awarded a penalty in the opening minutes.

The foul was on Stern John – and committed by Crosby.

It was a strange incident, none of the Saints players even appealing but the referee awarding the spot kick after consulting with his linesman.

After the game Adkins was still baffled as to why it had been given, but there was one, solitary piece of evidence.

The only person to get any footage whatsoever was *Daily Echo* photographer Paul Collins, who captured perfectly a clear shirt tug that led to the spot kick which Gregory Vignal tucked away.

Saints would surely have accepted the point they ended up getting.

The Iron equaliser was scored by... you can probably guess by now.

It was a penalty awarded at the other end.

Crosby stepped up to take it and saw it saved by Kelvin Davis, surely something the Saints keeper reminds his now boss of on occasions.

However, Crosby probably has the last laugh as the rebound came back to the big centre half and he tucked it away.

A decent away point was just the start Pearson needed.

The Saints side he inherited were short on confidence.

When Burley had left it looked like a season of mid-table obscurity beckoned.

Saints rarely had the consistency to threaten promotion, but were a steady 13th with ten wins from 28 games and relegation never really a thought.

PEARSON IN BATTLE

MEMORIES: Nigel Pearson salutes the Saints fans after the final day win over Sheffield United at St Mary's in 2008.

Below – the Paul Collins picture which clearly shows Stern John having his shirt tugged by Andy Crosby during Pearson's first match in charge at Nigel Adkins' Scunthorpe.



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Gorman and Dodd's spell in charge saw a dip in form with an FA Cup win over Bury followed by a defeat against Norwich, a draw with Crystal Palace and then a hat-trick of losses against QPR, Stoke and Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup – and, yes, the coincidences continue as Rickie Lambert scored the only goal of the tie to knock Saints out.

That last performance was the final straw and Pearson was quickly handed the job.

His style was very much an understated one.

His huge physical presence, from a career as a rough and tough centre half,

gave him an air of command and he led from the front.

It ended up being a backs to the wall type of job as, by the time he came in, Saints were down to 18th and starting to look over their shoulders.

Interestingly, the statistics tell you his record actually wasn't that good at Saints, but the numbers alone don't tell you how hard it is to pull around a team short on confidence.

Pearson took charge of 14 games at Saints and managed just three wins – until the vital one on the final day of the season, to keep Saints up, it was an even worse two in 13.

But, importantly, he gave the squad a shot in the arm and really organised them to make them hard to beat.

In those 14 games Saints may have won only three but they lost just four, meaning seven draws.

Saints Spotlight



HOLDS THE LEAD OF THE NIGELS



The league table for that season, even from Burley's time in charge, told a story of how Saints drew far too many games over the course of the campaign.

But after the dramatic last day survival, beating Sheffield United 3-2 at St Mary's, Pearson became something of a hero with the fans.

It was not only for what happened on the pitch, but also the way he conducted himself when the club hit the headlines for the wrong reasons off it after the arrests of Nathan Dyer and Bradley Wright-Phillips.

He was seen as firm and fair and his style impressed.

What happened next for Pearson was harsh.

Crouch was pushed aside as Rupert Lowe and Michael Wilde returned to the club, this time in tandem.

Pearson had only been on a short term contract until the end of the season, and that was not renewed.

Lowe and Wilde didn't believe he was the right man to take the club forward in a new era with a vastly-trimmed budget and a reliance on young players.

In came Jan Poortvliet and Mark Wotte instead.

The decision to release Pearson was one that Saints fans met with a mixed reaction.

Like all football fans, there is always the sense of 'the King is dead, long live the King' when managers and players come and go.

But hindsight certainly made them wistful.

Football is a game of maybes and whether Pearson could have kept Saints up again is hard to say.

He certainly would have had much more experience of the league, but if the doubts were

already there an uneasy relationship with those running the club could have existed and undermined all that.

It's like Burley's departure – many Saints fans were pleased he left but, with him in charge, they were never likely to reach the play-offs that season, but it's also highly unlikely they would have stared relegation in the face.

Pearson wasn't licking his wounds for long, though, and has gone on to prove his managerial pedigree.

He went to Leicester and took them straight up from League One in his first season and then to the Championship play-offs in his second, where they lost to Cardiff on penalties.

All was not well behind the scenes there either, though, and once Hull were given permission by ex-Pompey chief Milan Mandaric to speak to Pearson the

The decision to release Pearson met a mixed reaction

writing was on the wall and he was on the move again.

A mid-table first season with the Tigers was achieved, but he only got a few months into another when he made the move to Leicester for a second stint, walking back into the King Power Stadium in November last year.

What he has inherited this time is a tricky situation.

Expectations were high at the start of the campaign after Sven Goran Eriksson's prolific spending under the backing of the club's Asian owners.

The Swede assembled something of a Football League all-stars side but getting them to gel and fulfil their pre-season billing as champions-elect proved hard to reach.

Even since Pearson came in it has been hard for him to turn things around, a sure sign that he is going to need time to work with his side.

The Foxes surely want promotion as soon as possible given their investment, but to expect it in such a turbulent campaign may now be hard to achieve.

Some say you should never go back after you've enjoyed success, but Pearson did.

He now faces a big task to achieve the ambitions Leicester have.



Davies heading in right direction

Birmingham 3 Watford 0

CURTIS Davies headed a fine brace to see off Watford and send Birmingham into the top six in the npower Championship.

The resurgent centre-back, below, is rediscovering the kind of form which propelled him into the limelight earlier in his career, culminating in a big-money move between local rivals West Brom and Aston Villa in 2008.

Davies' 35th-minute opener was a welcome arrival for a Blues side who had started slow out of the blocks, although the hosts never looked back from then onwards and his second on the hour mark confirmed a third defeat in four games for Watford, with Chris Burke firing in a late third.

Birmingham, who host Saints on February 4, show no sign of easing up despite this being their 37th game of the season, while their unbeaten league record at St Andrew's remains intact.



Play-off hopefuls draw a blank

Burnley 0 Derby 0

DERBY held firm for their fourth clean sheet in as many matches to leave Turf Moor with a share of the spoils.

Nigel Clough's side offered little in the way of an attacking threat, but Burnley also created few chances of note as strong winds made flowing football almost impossible in east Lancashire.

Clarets striker Charlie Austin, pictured, brought an excellent save out of former England Under-21 goalkeeper Frank Fielding in the second half, while Fielding's most taxing task of the opening period was keeping the ball still as he tried to take goal kicks.

Burnley, who face Saints at St Mary's on February 11, came closest to taking the points when a cross from Keith Treacy swirled over Fielding and against the upright.



Maynard placed on bench duty

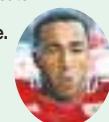
Bristol City 2 Doncaster 1

BRISTOL City moved six points clear of the npower Championship relegation zone after seeing off 10-man Doncaster.

First-half goals from Chris Wood and Kalifa Cisse helped the Robins bounce back from successive defeats to Crawley in the FA Cup and Brighton in the league.

However, they were made to hang on at the end as, despite Habib Beye's first-half dismissal for a poor challenge on Cole Skuse shortly before the hosts doubled their lead, El-Hadjji Diouf's header 15 minutes from time set up a nervous finale.

Former Saints target Nicky Maynard, pictured above, was the notable absentee from Bristol City's starting line-up, the striker dropping to the bench and replaced by Albert Adomah.



■ CHAMPIONSHIP INS AND OUTS

BARNSELEY

In:
Chris Dagnall (Scunthorpe) ... Undisclosed
Out:
Kern Miller (Hereford) ... Loan
Danny Haynes (Charlton) ... Loan

BIRMINGHAM

In:
None
Out:
Jake Jervis (Preston) ... Loan
Akwas Asante (Northampton) ... Loan

BRIGHTON

In:
Ben Dickenson (Dorchester) ... Undisclosed
David Gonzalez ... Released
Out:
Michael Poke (Bristol Rovers) ... Loan
Steve Cook (Bournemouth) ... Undisclosed

BRISTOL CITY

In:
Chris Wood (West Brom) ... Loan
Stephen Pearson (Derby) ... Free
Richard Foster (Aberdeen) ... £250,000
Out:
Damian Stewart (Notts County) ... Loan
Marlon Jackson (Telford) ... Loan
Joe Edwards (Yeovil) ... Loan
Christian Ribeiro (Scunthorpe) ... Loan
Jamie McAllister (Preston) ... Loan

BLACKPOOL

In:
Danny Wilson (Liverpool) ... Loan
Out:
Daniel Bogdanovic (Rochdale) ... Loan
Brett Ormerod (Rochdale) ... Loan
Bojan Djordjic ... Released
Miguel Llera (Sh Wednesday) ... Undisclosed

BURNLEY

In:
Kieran Trippier (Man City) ... Undisclosed
Josh McQuoid (Millwall) ... Loan
Out:
Joe Jackson (Barrow) ... Loan
Alex-Ray Harvey (Barrow) ... Loan
Leon Cort ... Released

CARDIFF

In:
Elliot Parish (Aston Villa) ... Undisclosed
Out:
None

COVENTRY

In:
Herman Hreidarsson (Portsmouth) ... Free
Alex Nimely (Manchester City) ... Loan
Out:
Lukas Jutkiewicz (Middlesbrough) ... £1.3m

CRYSTAL PALACE

In:
Paul McShane (Hull) ... Loan
Mustapha Dumbuya (Doncaster) ... Loan
John Egan (Sunderland) ... Loan
Out:
Wes Foderingham (Swindon) ... Undisclosed

DERBY

In:
Ryan Noble (Sunderland) ... Loan
Tom Naylor (Mansfield) ... Undisclosed
Out:
Stephen Pearson (Bristol City) ... Free
David Martin (Southend) ... Undisclosed
Stephen Bywater (Sh Wednesday) ... Free
Lee Croft (St Johnstone) ... Loan

DONCASTER

In:
Sam McMahon (Rangers) ... Undisclosed
David Button (Spurs) ... Loan
Out:
Mustapha Dumbuya (Crystal Palace) ... Loan
Dean Shiels (Kilmarnock) ... Free

HULL

In:
Trevor Carson (Sunderland) ... Loan
Joshua King (Man United) ... Loan
Vito Mannone (Arsenal) ... Loan
Out:
Sonny Bradley (Aldershot) ... Loan
Matty Mainwaring (Stockport) ... Loan
Paul McShane (Crystal Palace) ... Loan

IPSWICH

In:
Alex McCarthy (Reading) ... Loan

● Continued on opposite page

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

Nimely show KOs Boro

Coventry 3 Middlesbrough 1
AN INSPIRATIONAL performance from debutant Alex Nimely helped basement club Coventry to a 3-1 victory over nine-man Middlesbrough who suffered their third successive league defeat.

The on-loan Nimely, who spent the first half of the season with Middlesbrough, set up Gary McSheffrey, right, for the game's opening goal and added a second early in the second half after Kevin Thomson had been sent off.

Middlesbrough captain Matthew Bates then scored at the wrong

end after a clever cross from Coventry substitute David Bell.

Scott McDonald pulled one back for the visitors who made three quick substitutions to try and turn the game in their favour.

But the hosts held on with Boro winger Julio Arca seeing red in the closing stages for a two-footed lunge on Sammy Clingan.

Middlesbrough's new signing Lukas Jutkiewicz, who had also been linked with Saints before his move north, was denied the chance to face his former employers due to an agreement between the two clubs.



Henderson hat-trick

Barnsley 1 Millwall 3
DARIUS Henderson hit his second hat-trick of the week to end a run of three successive league defeats for Millwall.

The result was the perfect response for Millwall following on from their 6-0 hammering against Birmingham.

Henderson's hat-trick was his sixth goal in the last two games, after his strikes in the FA Cup third round replay against Dagenham &

Redbridge.

The striker's first came from the spot, his second followed neat chest control and he latched onto a loose ball late on to complete his hat-trick, while Barnsley grabbed a late consolation with one of their few shots on target.

Barnsley looked flat throughout the game, and missed the midfield guile of the injured Jacob Butterfield and the departed Danny Drinkwater.



West Ham 2 Nottingham Forest 1

TWO Mark Noble penalties fired West Ham to the top of the npower Championship for the first time this season.

The midfielder's (pictured above) double from the spot was enough to ensure the pre-season promotion favourites leapfrogged Saints, who host Leicester on Monday.

But despite their lofty position, the Hammers rarely hit the heights against a struggling Nottingham Forest side.

In fact, Sam Allardyce's men could, and probably should, have been two or three goals down before they benefited from some generous refereeing, allowing Noble to make it three successful spot-kicks in his last two outings.

Referee Tony Bates twice took centre stage, penalising Guy Moussi and Chris Gunter for handball in each half to gift the hosts victory, despite a last-gasp consolation from Lewis McGugan.

Forest had by far the better chances in the first half, with Marcus Tudgay twice blazing over and McGugan also wayward in front of goal.

Their best opportunity came 15 minutes

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Ham	27	16	5	6	43	24	53
SAINTS	26	15	5	6	50	28	50
Cardiff	27	13	10	4	44	29	49
Middlesbrough	27	12	9	6	31	28	45
Hull	27	14	3	10	28	25	45
Birmingham	26	12	7	7	42	26	43
Blackpool	27	11	9	7	43	34	42
Reading	27	12	6	9	34	27	42

before the break when former West Ham striker Marlon Harewood and McGugan combined well to tee up Paul Anderson with the goal gaping.

But Hammers defender Julien Faubert just did enough to put Anderson off the shot and Rob Green was able to collect his weak effort.

The home side, by contrast, had created only half-chances, with skipper Kevin Nolan inches away from getting a touch on a dangerous cross from George McCartney and Jack Collison shooting too close to Lee Camp.

But they were handed the lead in first-half stoppage time when referee Bates awarded a penalty after harshly adjudging Moussi had blocked Sam Baldock's cross with his hand.

Noble, whose penalty was all that separated the sides when West Ham beat Portsmouth last week, repeated the trick despite Camp getting a hand to his shot.

The West Ham goal continued to lead a charmed life after the break, with Green making a fine save to deny Chris Gunter.

And from the resulting corner, McGugan's cross deceived everyone in the goalmouth and cannoned off the far post before it was hacked off the line by Noble.

At the other end Collison should have doubled the hosts' lead after a mazy run into the area but his shot was deflected over the top, and Camp pulled off a fine diving save to deny Henri Lansbury.

But the second goal did arrive in the 63rd minute when Bates pointed to the spot again, Gunter this time the guilty party, and Noble did the honours once more.

McGugan pulled one back deep into stoppage time but there was barely time to restart and the Hammers celebrated hitting top spot.

Royals' home hurt

Reading 0 Hull 1

ROBBIE Brady scored the only goal of the game as Hull won 1-0 at fellow npower Championship play-off hopefuls Reading, the first time since November that Brian McDermott's side have been beaten at home.

With both sides level on points before the match, the winger struck with just over 20 minutes remaining to ensure the Tigers leapfrogged the Royals in the league table.

Leeds take advantage as Ipswich self-destruct

Leeds 3 Ipswich 1

ROBERT Snodgrass, Ross McCormack and Luciano Becchio all made the most of some hapless defending to rescue Leeds as 10-man Ipswich pressed the self-destruct button at Elland Road.

The visitors were well in control after midfielder Andy Drury had given them a 34th-minute lead, but once goalkeeper Alex McCarthy, who has just completed a loan spell at Leeds before joining Ipswich last

week, was sent off for deliberate handball in the 71st minute, Paul Jewell's side fell apart.

Defender Ibrahim Sonko handed Snodgrass a 74th-minute equaliser by playing the ball to the Leeds winger in the six-yard box, McCormack capitalised on replacement keeper Arran Lee-Barrett's indecision eight minutes later and Becchio pounced on Tommy Smith's error in the 91st minute to lift Simon Grayson's side back to within a point of the play-offs.

Blackpool 2 Crystal Palace 1
SUBSTITUTE Chris Basham was the last-gasp hero for Blackpool as they fought back from a goal down to beat Crystal Palace and extend their unbeaten home run to six npower Championship matches.

Owen Garvan capitalised on a controversial penalty decision to hand Palace the first-half advantage but the Seasiders served up some late drama, with Elliot Grandin levelling the scores five minutes from time before Basham's last-minute winner.

FULL CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

SCHNEIDERLIN: I TURNED DOWN PREMIER LEAGUE MOVE

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MORGAN Schneiderlin has revealed he could have moved to the Premier League when he was just 16-years-old.

The midfielder has been at St Mary's for nearly four years, having joined the club at the age of 18. He admits it is his "dream" to play in the top flight, and is confident of achieving that goal next season.

But the French star has confessed he could have made the switch to England much earlier than he did.

"I had the opportunity to come three years before I actually came, when I was 16-years-old and I wasn't really ready," said the 22-year-old.

"So I made a choice to not come. I said to my family if I come to England it's to play.

"Because if you come to England and you're not playing you have not your family or your friends, and it's not the best situation."

Schneiderlin admitted more than one club had been interested in him when he was 16, including Premier League sides, but he would not be drawn on names.

"I had a few opportunities at the time, but it's in the past now," he said. "I'm not going to name any team."

Schneiderlin eventually did opt to leave his homeland and his club, RC Strasbourg, in 2008, when Saints paid £1.2m for him.

The midfielder said the time was right for him to make the move then, and it is a transfer he has not regretted.

"When I knew Southampton wanted to play me almost every game I took this chance," explained Schneiderlin, who has made 141 appearances for Saints.

"And now I'm in the best country for football in the world, so I'm very happy."

With Saints top of the Championship going into this weekend's matches, Schneiderlin knows the Premier League is within touching distance.

And he explained just how much it would mean to get there.

"It's a dream of our life," he said.

"We know we've got a massive chance this year if we can keep going.

"We know every game is going to be hard this season.

"We know it's going to be long, but we know we have a great chance.

"I came to Southampton to play in the Premier League, and hopefully it can be next year."

'I'm in the best country for football in the world'

MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN: Admits he wasn't ready for the Premier League at 16 years of age.

CHAMPIONSHIP INS AND OUTS

Out:

Ivar IngimarssonReleased
Ronan Murray (Swindon)Loan

LEEDS

In:

Robbie Rogers (Unattached)Free
Danny Pugh (Stoke)Undisclosed
Andros Townsend (Spurs)Loan
Fabian Delph (Aston Villa)Loan

Out:

Charlie Taylor (Bradford)Loan
Chris Weale (Northampton)Loan

LEICESTER

In:

Danny Drinkwater (Man Utd)Undisclosed

Out:

Chris Weale (Northampton)Loan

MIDDLESBROUGH

In:

Lukas Jutkiewicz (Coventry)£1.3m

Out:

None

MILLWALL

In:

Ryan Mason (Spurs)Loan

Harry Kane (Spurs)Loan

Out:

Darren Purse (Plymouth)Free
Josh McQuoid (Burnley)Loan

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

In:

Marlon Harewood (Unattached)Free

Out:

Kieron Freeman (Notts County)Loan

PETERBOROUGH

In:

None

Out:

Kelvin Langmead (Northampton)Free
Grant Basey (Wycombe)Undisclosed
Scott Griffiths (Rotherham)Loan
Nathan Ralph (Kettering)Loan
Danny Mills (Kettering)Loan

PORTSMOUTH

In:

Kelvin EtuhuReleased

Dan Thompson (Hampton & R'mond)Free

Out:

None

READING

In:

Karl Sheppard (Sh Rovers)Undisclosed

Out:

Alex McCarthy (Ipswich)Loan
Marcus Williams (Sheffield United)Free

SAINTS

In:

Yago Falque (Spurs)Loan

Tadanari Lee (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)£1.8m*

* Official signing expected within next seven days after successful work permit appeal

Out:

Ryan Dickson (Yeovil)Loan
Ryan Dobie (Bury)Loan

WATFORD

In:

Nyron Nosworthy (Sunderland)Undisclosed

Out:

Piero Mingoia (Brentford)Loan
Gavin Massey (Colchester)Loan

WEST HAM

In:

Joe DixonReleased

George John (FC Dallas)Loan

Out:

Callum McNaughton (AFC Wimbledon)Free
Ahmed Abdulla (Dagenham)Loan
George Moncur (AFC Wimbledon)Loan
Callum Driver (Burton Albion)Loan
Peter Kurucz (Rochdale)Loan
Eoin Wearen (Dagenham)Loan



SUSPENDED:
Rickie Lambert.

Morgan out to settle score

■ From front page

"And we look forward to this game, because I think the first game we had against them we played quite well, but unfortunately we lost the game, and we want our revenge."

The fixture against Leicester represents the last game in star striker Rickie Lambert's three-match suspension, for a red card at

Brighton earlier this month.

So far, Saints are two from two in his absence, having beaten Coventry 2-1 in the FA Cup third round, before demolishing Nottingham Forest 3-0 last Saturday.

Schneiderlin, who scored the third at the City Ground, admits the side never want to have to play without leading marksman Lambert.

But he insists they have now proven to the rest of the

league that they can cope without the 17-goal hitman.

"Rickie Lambert is a massive part of our team," said Schneiderlin.

"Of course we miss him a bit, because he's a strong player for us and he's done so great.

"But everyone knows that now we can play without him.

"We try to improve, whatever player's missing."

Schneiderlin added that

there is plenty of encouragement to take from the return of David Connolly, who netted his first goal since October in the win at Forest.

"He's someone that he works very hard and is someone who never gives up," said the Frenchman.

"We know the quality of the finishing he has.

"You know when you get the ball in the last final third he's going to do something."

SAINTS v LEICESTER REPORT AND REACTION IN TUESDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Sports Quiz

- 1 Which team did England flanker Tom Wood begin his professional career with?
- 2 Brooke Pancake is an American competitor in which sport?
- 3 Football teams in which country contest a cup competition called the KNVB Beker?
- 4 Snooker star Judd Trump is from which British city?
- 5 In year did Chris Coleman become Fulham manager?
- 6 Wales back Gavin Henson plays his club rugby for which region?
- 7 Pakistan spinner Saeed Ajmal had a stint with which English county in 2011?
- 8 In which year did Marcos Baghdatis reach the Australian Open final?
- 9 Which player recently scored his first Premier League goal in his 116th appearance at his seventh different club?
- 10 Which player is currently top of snooker's world rankings?



- 11 England batsman Alastair Cook, pictured above, plays for which county?
- 12 Branislav Ivanovic signed for Chelsea from which club?
- 13 Rally driver Daniel Sordo competes for which team?
- 14 Tennis player Ivo Karlovic is from which country?
- 15 What is the name of Boston's ice hockey franchise?
- 16 Who is the interim coach of the Pakistan cricket team?
- 17 Which tennis player was fined 1,250 Australian dollars (£840) for smashing four rackets in succession during his second-round defeat at the Australian Open?
- 18 Freestyle skier Sarah Burke, who died aged 29 on Thursday from injuries sustained in a training accident, represented which nation?
- 19 Who is the tallest player in the Barclays Premier League?
- 20 Which NFL team have been confirmed to appear in the league's Wembley fixture for the next three seasons?

Answers

1 Worcester; 2 Golf; 3 Holland; 4 City; 6th 8th; 20 St Louis Rams. Costel Panfilimon (Manchester); Marcos Baghdatis; 18 Canada; 19 Bruns; 16 Mohsin Khan; 17 Moscow; 13 Mini; 14 Croatia; 15 Selby; 11 Essex; 12 Lokomotiv Roudtege (Swansea); 10 Mark Worcester; 8 2006; 9 Wayne Bristol; 5 2003; 6 Cardiff Blues; 7 Worcester; 2 Golf; 3 Holland; 4

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

WHAT a difference a week makes.

Last week I bemoaned, albeit slightly, the lack of transfer activity at Southampton.

This week it would seem that Saints are bidding on just about every high profile non Premier league striker around.

According to some national newspapers we've put a substantial bid in for Jordan Rhodes at Huddersfield.

And according to another, we've submitted a record-breaking bid for Gary Hooper from Celtic.

Both teams are vying for the top spot of their respective leagues and it would seem highly unlikely that either club would sell their major assets mid-season.

That said, if the bid's right then the bid's right.

And, in the current financial climate, what club could seriously shrug off a bid like the ones Saints are reportedly offering?

Surely a club like Celtic wouldn't entertain a bid from a Championship club? Or would they?

Celtic aren't the giant they'd like us all to think they are.

At best, their international form in the Europa league is on a par with the likes of Birmingham and until they play any kind of Championship club it would be hard to argue that either Rangers or Celtic are bigger than a lower placed Premiership club.

Yes, both clubs have huge attendances and are undoubtedly big clubs.

But their size is in terms of fan-base not actual ability.

They may dominate Scottish football, but since when was that such a difficult task?

Claims that Hooper is worth over £10 million are, quite simply, farcical.

If rumour is to be believed, the wage structure at Celtic isn't that dissimilar to that of Saints.

And with that in mind, and the strong sense of ambition at the club, is it really that much of a leap to believe a move to Saints couldn't be a step up rather than a step backwards?

No doubt Saints will deny they're interested in these players, but the reality is they should be.

Both are young and up-and-coming and both would indicate a long term strategy that revolves around young players outside of the Premiership.

Norwich and Swansea have proved that you don't have to have big names to make it in the Premiership.

A strong team ethic can overcome a multitude of hurdles.

The truth tragedy of the Premier league is that clubs like Norwich and Swansea spend so much time worrying about survival in the Premiership that they don't look at the bigger picture.

Clubs such as those two are absolutely ripe for winning, say, the Carling Cup or the FA cup.

So many of the so called big five clubs treat these trophies with such disdain that I'd fancy Swansea over Man Utd/Chelsea/Arsenal second stringers any day of the week.

In football, winning is a good

The spirit of '76 is still alive ... let's not snuff it out without good reason ...

habit to get into.

I seriously believe that the Johnstone's Paint Trophy was vital to Saints' turnaround in fortunes as the players experienced first hand what real success was.

Instead of being so damn worried about relegation, wouldn't it be glorious to get a club like Norwich winning a major domestic trophy and seeing a club outside the top ten enjoying their moment of glory?

There are three all-Premiership ties to be played in the fourth round and at the very least Liverpool or Manchester United will not make the next stages.

As the draw unfolds, the more inviting the FA Cup looks.

Saints' trip to Millwall present us with a similar dilemma to the promoted Premiership sides.

Whilst the Premiership is the prize, there is a real opportunity for a Championship club to win the FA cup.

Playing the Academy players is certainly the right thing to do, giving them a real taste of first team football.

Let's not be so obsessed with promotion as to not at least glimpse at the glory that lies just beyond the horizon.

The spirit of '76 is still alive and kicking; let's not snuff it out without good reason...

In closing, yet again there's never

been a better time to be a fan with Saints sat top of the league, although a win for West Ham prior to our game on Monday would put them top over the weekend.

With Lambert back from suspension, and Fonte and Chaplow hopefully back soon, it'll seem like a slew of new signings to help bolster the push for promotion.

None of us know what goes on behind closed doors, but we must have faith that our fiercely ambitious chairman will do what's best for all of us.

Exciting times await us, keep the faith and hold on tight.

The Saints roller coaster's off again...

EMAIL YOUR VIEWS ON SAINTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



ABSENT: Egypt, pictured celebrating their Cup of Nations win in 2010, did not make it to this year's tournament.

Absence of past winners opens up Cup of Nations

IT is hoped the African Cup of Nations will not be diluted by the absence of many past winners.

That has been the biggest talking point out here as we prepared for the 28th African Cup of Nations, which began on Saturday.

The tournament will be graced by 368 players in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, until the final on February 12.

Many of Africa's star players ply their trade in the European leagues and the biggest contributor will be France, from where 55 players have been called up for the competition.

But this year's Cup of Nations will be missing the likes of Egypt, who incredibly have won the last three African Cup of Nations - in 2006, 2008 and 2010 - as well as Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa and Algeria.

It will be fascinating to see how debutants like Botswana and Niger fare, as well as Equatorial Guinea.

Ranked 151st by FIFA and 41st in Africa, the hosts are the competition's underdogs. But one can never tell. You never know what they might achieve with home advantage and a huge incentive - £1m bonus and \$20,000 per goal - to win their

opening game against Libya (although it is unclear whether similar incentives will be forthcoming in their other group matches versus Senegal and Zambia).

Holders Egypt have blamed the Arab Spring for their demise but Libya overcame remarkable odds in qualifying, despite the uprising that overthrew Gaddafi and left their football infrastructure in disarray.

I make Ivory Coast and their galaxy of stars the hot favourites.

For many of them it may be their last chance to win their country's first Cup of Nations since 1992 in Senegal.

Key players like Didier Drogba, goalkeeper Boupac Barry, midfielder Didier Zokora and defender Kolo Toure are all now the wrong side of 30.

Hot favourites in 2008 and 2010, the Ivorian Elephants choked at both tournaments but their preparation in the United Arab Emirates has gone well, with wins over Tunisia and Libya and goals

from Chelsea's Salomon Kalou in both games.

Ranked 18th by FIFA, Ivory Coast are the best side in Africa on paper. But if they fluff their chance again there are other nations waiting to pounce.

Senegal have a talented strike force led by the formidable Demba Ba, who is ably assisted by Newcastle United's latest capture, Papiss Cisse.

These players should push Senegal, the fifth-best team in Africa according to the rankings, to the final stages and confirm their impressive qualifying form.

Ghana, World Cup quarter-finalists and Cup of Nations runners-up in 2010, also have a big chance.

Unfortunately they will not have Michael Essien, who returned to action for Chelsea

last weekend but too late to make the squad after a long-term injury.

Also missing is AC Milan's Kevin-Prince Boateng, but it is Ghana's strength in depth that makes them strong challengers. They still have Inter's Sulley Muntari and former Sunderland striker Asamoah Gyan. And may I suggest you look at the Ayew brothers from Marseille; midfielder Andre, 22, and striker Jordan, 20.

They have caught the eye this season and have great genes - their father is the great Abedi Pele, the former African Player of the Year who burst on the scene as a 17-year-old and was the catalyst for Ghana's 1982 success in Libya.

The four-time champions may feel 2012 is their year. They are ranked 26th by FIFA and second in Africa.

Morocco and Tunisia will also be hard to beat. Morocco, the 1976 champions, will be desperate to do well after missing the last tournament, while Tunisia struggled through the qualifiers but look young and energetic and may prove troublesome.

On paper, this year's tournament is the most open for years but I will be surprised if one from Morocco, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal fail to lift the trophy next month.

SHINING LIGHT:

Newcastle frontman Demba Ba leads the line for highly-fancied Senegal at the Africa Cup of Nations.



Saints Spotlight



Redknapp makes title claim

HARRY Redknapp claims he would be in a good position to win the Barclays Premier League with Tottenham if he had the money Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini has at his disposal.

City boss Mancini and predecessor Mark Hughes have spent almost £500million on transfers since Sheik Mansour took over the club three and a half years ago.

Mancini led his team to FA Cup glory last year, but neither he nor Hughes have managed to win the league in that time.



And Redknapp, pictured, who has turned his team in to title challengers on a fraction of City's riches, believes he would have a good chance to win the championship if he had a similar amount of money to spend. "To be honest, you have got a chance of winning the league (with their money)," Redknapp said ahead of his team's trip to the leaders tomorrow. "I'd fancy anyone to manage them."

"It's a different game when you go and buy players and pay your players £250,000 a week. "It is not rocket science, this game. Good players give you a chance. If you have not got good players you don't have a chance, I don't care who you are."

Mancini, whose team lead third place Spurs by five points, joked in response: "He can borrow money from us if he doesn't have money!"

Dickson's on target

SAINTS defender Ryan Dickson was on target for Yeovil as they lost 3-2 at Bury today.

The 25-year-old joined the League One strugglers Yeovil in a one-month loan deal earlier in January.

Adkins and co ... a right bunch of cards!



YOU CAN HAVE THE SAINTS TEAM IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND: Following on from their successful Premiership trading cards collections of recent years, Topps' Match Attax have just released a Championship version with 12 cards for each of the 24 clubs to collect and swap with your friends. Pictured here are all the Saints cards, including a shiny Rickie Lambert limited edition '100 Club' card.



Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

IT'S hard not to have a bit of sympathy towards Neil Warnock after his sacking from QPR.

Yes, he will have no doubt been paid handsomely for his time there and have got a good package once he was booted out.

But some of what he says does strike a chord rather than merely sounding bitter.

If what he says is correct about the chairman interacting with players and fans on Twitter, then that is worrying.

Social media has a place in modern society and nobody could deny that, but nowadays club officials spend far too much time worrying about a minority of online fans rather than the majority.

If you just don't know, in a general sense, the people that support your club you may think what you

Warnock? He never stood a chance ...

hear on Twitter or read on Internet forums is what the majority of fans actually think.

In Adam Rant's experience, it is generally not the case at all.

There are some very sensible fans on Twitter or forums who make very valid points.

But they are drowned out by so many idiots, so many of them posting at such random times they have to be those the law would still deem as children, the unemployed or total fanatics.

Either way, if you met them face-to-face you'd take their opinions with a pinch of salt.

Yet, because their views are easy to access behind a computer screen and you can't see who they are, they are treated as gospel.

One such incident that sticks in Adam Rant's mind is a local one where some 'fans' desperate to stick up for 'the club' in an argument criticised Matt Le Tissier as a player for Saints, claiming he was a lazy footballer who lacked ambition and shouldn't have stayed at the club.

It made my blood boil.

Stroll into a local pub in the area and you find the real fans, the ones who make up 90 per cent of your

home crowd every week.

Their views you will find are often quite different, and most of the idiot posters, not the sensible ones, would not have the balls to step up and say what they do online to people's faces.

It's much easier hiding behind a computer screen and a made up name. What courage they have.

But let me tell you who the biggest fools of all are, the club officials who are glued to them and can't see them for what they actually are.

It's frightening they have football clubs in their hands.

If Warnock, pictured, was right, you have to pity him.

He never stood a chance.



Furore shames boxing

SO the Amir Khan rematch verdict from the WBA is being appealed by Lamont Peterson, while Khan withdrew his appeal to the IBF over the defeat – meaning Peterson remains champion.

'Mystery man' Mustafa Ameen has come out and offered an explanation for his actions but apparently his maths doesn't work and we're not at all sure what some of the other key players are saying.

Only in boxing, a sport apparently so desperate to avoid claims of corruption and fight fixing yet so utterly incapable of coming to sensible and unified verdicts.

The folly of so many titles and no decisive governing body to make unilateral decisions in times of crisis has undermined the sport at the very top level and continues to do so.

The best fighters can hide away and dodge fights against their closest rivals and when decisions need challenging the system is a total mess, as has been proved by the Khan saga.

There are clearly questions to be answered after that fight, and in any other sport an investigation would take place and a conclusion reached.

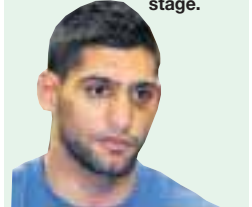
Even if you couldn't go through all that, surely you would say the verdict of the first fight stands but order a rematch.

It's what the public wants to see after, lest we forget, what was a brilliant first meeting between Khan, below, and Peterson.

It will also be a huge crowd puller if you're worried about the bottom line.

In the *Sports Pink* this weekend, there is an interview with legendary local trainer Jack Bishop who is exasperated with some of the things happening in British boxing.

It's hardly surprising if this is how it is handled on the world stage.



Undercooked England on



wobbly summit footing

THE GLUMS: Coach Andy Flower, far left, skipper Andrew Strauss, second right, watch England crumble to defeat in Dubai.

WINNING becomes a habit in the same way that losing does.

The trick that the very best in the world of sport pull is to be able to turn things around and start afresh when their momentum dries up.

That is now the challenge facing the England cricket team following their humbling in the First Test against Pakistan in the Middle East.

The defeat was every bit as crushing as the statistics suggested.

For England, it was a call to reality.

They had enjoyed an amazing run over about two years to get themselves to the top of the Test cricket ratings.

They have had that feeling of unstoppable momentum that is hard to capture in sport, but when you get it is difficult to imagine ever ending.

Win follows win follows win follows win, and you go out on the field every time you play, no matter what obstacles are thrown in your way, believing you will overcome them.

You cannot actually imagine it not happening.

England have had an unusually long rest period in modern Test cricket, something which the players did want.

Starting up again, after having reached their pinnacle, was always going to be a very tough challenge.

On the evidence of the first Test, it was one they were simply not up to.

Did people get carried away by the No 1 rating?

Probably.

Adam Rant has gone on record as hailing the achievement as a marvellous feat and one for which the team and the staff deserve an awful

lot of praise.

However, it has also been noted here that the real test of England's credentials was going to be this series, playing on unknown wickets, and then a tour to Sri Lanka.

If you could win these then you really could claim to be the undisputed world leaders.

Did England become complacent because of their success? You'd like to think not.

But certainly there was the suspicion before the Test started that they had not had the requisite number of warm-up games.

The argument that it's hard to find opposition is understandable but money is generally little object for English cricket these days and surely they could have cobbled together some players for a further warm-up match, even if it was a case of shipping some county cricketers out there?

England did end up looking underprepared and, whether that was because of a lack of serious practice which exposed the batting, or because they were mentally not in tune through complacency or something else altogether, is hard to assess at this stage.

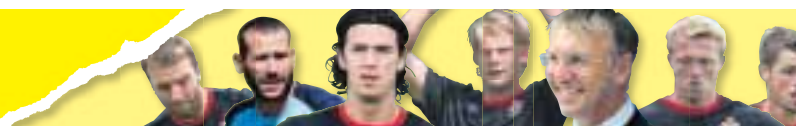
But one thing is for sure, the batting didn't fire and it landed them in huge trouble.

As stated in these very pages last weekend, it's much harder to stay at the top than it is to get there.

England now have a lot of questions to answer and we will find out very soon whether they have what it takes to stake a genuine claim to being the world's undisputed best side ...

... or whether their run to the top owed much to momentum and the right matches at the right time.

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12

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AUGUST															
Sat 6 Leeds	W 3-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Harding	Do Prado**	Hammond*** 1	Cork	Lallana 1	Lambert	Connolly* 1	De Ridder*	Chaplow**	Schneiderlin***
Tues 9 Torquay (CC1)	W 4-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Seaborne	Martin	Dickson	De Ridder** 1	Chaplow 1	Schneiderlin	Holmes*	Lambert 1	Do Prado***	Lallana*	Hammond**	Forte*** 1
Sat 13 Barnsley	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly** 1	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	Schneiderlin***
Tues 16 Ipswich	W 5-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana*** 2	Lambert 2	Connolly** 1	Schneiderlin*	Fox**	De Ridder***
Sat 20 Millwall	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado 1	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Connolly***	Schneiderlin*	Fox**	De Ridder***
Sat 27 Leicester	L 2-3	Davis	Richardson*	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding*** 1	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly 1	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Fox***
Tues 30 Swindon (CC2)	W 3-1	Bialkowski	Richardson	Seaborne	Martin	Harding	Holmes**	Schneiderlin	Cork	Lallana	Forte* 1	Do Prado*** 1	Lambert* 1	Hammond**	Hoskins***
SEPTEMBER															
Sat 10 Nottm Forest	W 3-2	Davis	Cork	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond	Hammond	Lallana	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	Schneiderlin***
Sun 18 Birmingham	W 4-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado* 1	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana*** 1	Lambert 1	Connolly	Chaplow* 1	Fonte**	De Ridder***
Wed 21 Preston (CC3)	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Hooiveld** 1	Dickson	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin	Chaplow	Holmes	Reeves	Forte***	Lallana* 1	Schneiderlin**	Lambert***
Sat 24 Burnley	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin** 1	
Wed 28 Cardiff	L 1-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado	Schneiderlin	Cork**	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	De Ridder* 1	Chaplow**	
OCTOBER															
Sat 1 Watford	W 4-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana***	Lambert 2	Do Prado 1	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin**	Holmes*** 1
Sat 15 Derby	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson**	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin	Cork	Chaplow*	Lambert 1	Connolly	De Ridder*	Hammond**	Harding***
Tues 18 West Ham	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Chaplow*	Lambert	Connolly**	Harding*	Cork**	De Ridder***
Sat 22 Reading	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte*	Cork	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Cork	Chaplow	Lambert	Connolly**	Martin*	De Ridder** 1	Schneiderlin***
Tues 25 Crystal Palace (CC4)	L 0-2	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Cork	Harding	De Ridder	Ward-Prowse	Schneiderlin	Holmes**	Reeves***	Forte*	Barnard*	Lambert**	Do Prado***
Sat 29 Middlesbrough	W 3-0	Davis	Butterfield	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado* 2	Connolly* 1	Schneiderlin**	De Ridder***
NOVEMBER															
Tues 1 Peterborough	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Harding	Chaplow*** 1	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado*	De Ridder*	Connolly**	Cork***
Sat 5 Coventry	W 4-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow* 1	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana** 1	Lambert	Do Prado*** 1	Hammond*	De Ridder** 1	Connolly***
Sat 19 Brighton	W 3-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 3	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Barnard***
Sat 26 Bristol City	L 0-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Barnard***
Tues 29 Hull	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork*	Lallana 1	Lambert**	Do Prado*** 1	De Ridder*	Barnard**	Holmes***
DECEMBER															
Sat 3 Doncaster	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana	Schneiderlin	Do Prado	Holmes*	Barnard**	
Sat 10 Blackpool	D 2-2	Bialkowski	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox**	Schneiderlin	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 2	Do Prado	De Ridder*	Harding**	
Sun 18 Portsmouth	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox*	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 1	Do Prado	Harding*	Hammond**	
Mon 26 Crystal Palace	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Do Prado 2	Connolly*	Hammond**	
Fri 30 Bristol City	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson***	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana*	Lambert	Do Prado	Connolly*	Hammond**	Holmes***
JANUARY															
Mon 2 Brighton	L 0-3	Davis	Richardson	Martin	Hooiveld	Harding*	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly	Fox*	Forte**	Reeves***
Sat 7 Coventry (FAC 3)	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Harding***	Martin 1	Hooiveld	Fox	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	W-Prowse** 1	Lallana	Doble*	Hoskins*	Reeves**	Stephens***
Sat 14 Notts Forest	W 3-0	Davis	Harding**	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Hammond	Schneiderlin 1	Lallana***	Do Prado* 1	Connolly 1	Holmes*	Butterfield**	Reeves***
Mon 23 Leicester															
Sat 28 Dag & Red/Millwall (FAC)															
Tues 31 Cardiff															
FEBRUARY															
Sat 4 Birmingham															
Sat 11 Burnley															
Tues 14 West Ham															
Sat 18 Derby															
Sat 25 Watford															
MARCH															
Sat 3 Leeds															
Tues 6 Ipswich															
Sat 10 Barnsley															
Sat 17 Millwall															
Tues 20 Hull															
Sat 24 Doncaster															
Sat 31 Blackpool															
APRIL															
Sat 7 Portsmouth															
Mon 9 Crystal Palace															
Sat 14 Reading															
Tues 17 Peterborough															
Sat 21 Middlesbrough															
Sat 28 Coventry															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	25	0	0	0	254	0	STEVE DE RIDDER	4(18)	3	3	1	7(18)	4	RYAN DOBLE	0	0	1	0	1	0
BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI	1	0	5	0	39(1)	0	RICHARD CHAPLOW	8(7)	3	2	1	37(10)	6	DANNY FOX	18(4)	0	1	0	19(4)	0
TOMMY FORECAST	0	0	0	0	0	0	DEAN HAMMOND	21(4)	1	1(2)	0	117(7)	11	JOS HOOIVLED	21	2	2	1	23	3
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	1(1)	0	3	0	40(4)	0	JACK CORK	24(2)	0	3	0	51(3)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	0	0	2	0	2	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	23	0	1	0	41(7)	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	13(12)	2	5	0	114(27)	3	SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
DAN HARDING	9(4)	1	3	0	105(7)	5	ADAM LALLANA	23	6	2(2)	1	155(19)	41	JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	2	0	19(11)	1	LEE HOLMES	0(5)	1	4	0	21(20)	3							
BEN REEVES	0(2)	0	2(1)	0	2(3)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	24	15	1(3)	2	132(6)	74							
JOSE FONTE	23	0	0(1)	0	95(1)	7	LEE BARNARD	0(4)	0	0(1)	0	44(25)	24							
RADHI JAIDI	0	0	0	0	67(1)	4	GULY DO PRADO	26	10	2(1)	1	55(13)	22							
AARON MARTIN	4(1)	0	5	0	17(5)	0	DAVID CONNOLLY	14(5)	6	0	0	34(26)	17							
DAN SEABORNE	4	0	2	0	35(15)	0	JONATHAN FORTE	0(1)	0	3(1)	2	5(10)	4							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.



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Premiership Spotlight

Leon's rise helps to keep us all sane ...

JUST over nine years ago, Swansea City were rock bottom of the Football League.

On March 22 2003, a side containing midfielder Leon Britton lost 2-1 at home to Carlisle to slip three places to 92nd in the league.

It was not a huge surprise – the Swans had spent the whole of Boxing Day through to early February in the same, woeful position.

In the end, the only reason they stopped sliding into the Conference was the fact they won their last game of the season 4-2.

Top of League 2 that season were Rushden & Diamonds, with Hartlepool runners-up and Wrexham third.

Not even a decade ago, that was.

Now Rushden & Diamonds no longer exist – they were wound up due to their financial problems last summer – while Wrexham have been playing non league football for the last few years.

And Swansea City?

Well, last Sunday's pulsating 3-2 home win over Arsenal sent a message to the rest of the top flight that the club will almost certainly be playing in the Premiership again next season, barring a major collapse.

Keeping us sane

And Leon Britton, the man who has been there almost all the time through one of the most amazing Phoenix-like rises in British football history, is still there!

Thank heavens for stories like this, to keep us all sane. In these money-mad times, there is still a place for success stories like Swansea's.

Still a place, also, for the likes of Norwich, Blackpool, Hull and Reading, all of whom have also won unlikely promotions to the promised land in recent times.

OK, some of them have gone back down again – I have always said, getting to the top flight is the easy bit, the hard part is staying there ... but at least they have enjoyed their moments in the sunshine, so to speak.

The Premiership wasn't set up for those sort of clubs, but we should be grateful that clubs can still progress from the fourth tier to the first in a pretty short space of time – Swansea, Blackpool and Hull all having made the journey in the current century.

Watching Swansea's victory at The Liberty Stadium on Sky should have allowed Nigel Adkins a smile.

Ditto Norwich City's victory at West Bromwich Albion the previous day.

For it appears two of the three teams

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

promoted from the Championship will stay up, with only the champions, Queens Park Rangers, currently in danger of going straight back down again.

Statistically-speaking, the odds have favoured promoted clubs staying up at the first attempt in recent seasons.

Of the last 18 promoted into the Premier League, ten have managed to avoid an instant demotion while eight have gone straight back down.

Two of the three clubs promoted in 2009/10 stayed up last term – Newcastle and West Bromwich Albion – with only Blackpool failing to stay up, and Ian

Holloway's men only went down on the final day.

The performances of Swansea and Norwich in recent months should certainly give Adkins and his Saints squad some confidence they can survive if they, too, manage to reach the Premiership's promised land come the end of 2011/12.

Biggest achievement

Norwich included four players – Grant Holt, Zak Whitbread, Russell Martin and Wes Hoolahan – in their team who won at West Brom who had been playing in League 1 on the same weekend two years earlier.

Should Saints go up again, they will probably be able to beat that figure next term.

You can easily imagine a Saints side

containing Kelvin Davis, Jose Fonte, Frazer Richardson, Adam Lallana, Richard Chaplow, Morgan Schneiderlin, Rickie Lambert and David Connolly in the Premiership – and all were playing in League 1 last season.

As I see it, that's been one of Adkins' biggest achievements in the current Championship term – fielding the nucleus of the side that were turning out in the third tier 12 months ago.

In terms of regulars, he has only really added two defenders, Jos Hooiveld and Danny Fox.

It will certainly be intriguing, though, to see how his two new foreign imports, Tadanari Lee and Yago Falque, fit in to what is obviously a great squad in terms of team spirit and how they fit into the manager's playing style.

SUCCESS STORIES: Steve Morison heads Norwich's winner at West Brom last week.

SUCCESS STORIES: Leon Britton, above right, has gone from the bottom of the Football League to playing against Manchester United.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I say to them all the time: 'Go back to your mother the same person you were when you arrived. That's important, because I'm sure your mother doesn't like to see you change'. And we don't like to see them change either" – **Sir Alex Ferguson reveals the advice he gives to Manchester United players to avoid their egos getting out of control.**

"The one thing we have to concentrate on is concentration" – Aston Villa boss Alex McLeish demonstrates a fine grasp of his subject.

"One morning I woke up and I said to my wife 'If I say no to this I'm going to regret it for the rest of my life, whereas if I say yes then I will only regret it for the term I'm in office'. So it seemed the lesser option, so I then said yes to the job, and I think I've settled in well" – **Ex-Formula One driver Derek Warwick, from Hampshire, overwhelms with his enthusiasm for his position as president of the British Racing Drivers' Club.**

"We had a good giggle about it. I said I can't believe he's only thought of one mystery ball – because I've got two or three up my sleeve!" – **Graeme Swann talks mystery deliveries with Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal.**

"Just over a week ago I hit rock-bottom and decided to end it all. I first took an overdose and when that didn't work tried to hang myself. I felt so alone and believed I had nothing to live for" – **Former Hull player Dean Windass reveals how badly he has been affected by depression since retiring from the game.**

"A blundering full-back could've stuck a couple of those in – from about four leagues below" – **Sunderland manager Martin O'Neill bemoans his side's missed chances in the 1-0 defeat at Chelsea.**

"It's not coincidence that he's one of the best goalscoring midfielders in the world and his timing is magnificent" – **Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas praises Frank Lampard after his fortunate goal in the win over Sunderland.**

"We all know Yak, he doesn't have a malicious bone in his body. We felt it looked a nasty one, but I was surprised when it was red and not yellow, so we then had to reassemble and be quite bold" – **Blackburn manager Steve Kean defends striker Ayegbeni Yakubu after he was sent off for a high challenge on Fulham's Danny Murphy in Rovers' 3-1 win.**

"His (position) is easy: do not say anything, all positive, I am a 'gentleman', others get burned" – **Rafael Nadal questions why Roger Federer stays quiet on issues of tennis politics.**

"It didn't really go according to plan today" – **A considerable understatement from Britain's Heather Watson after losing 6-1 6-0 to Victoria Azarenka in the first round of the Australian Open tennis.**

"It's like flirting with a girl. Perhaps she will resist you at first, but if you continue to ask her out, it always ends well. Never give up" – **Shanghai Shenhua owner Zhu Jun preaches patience and persistence in his club's pursuit of Chelsea striker Didier Drogba.**

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

CHERRIES 2011/12

August

6 Charlton (A)L 0-3
 9 Dagenham (H, CC)W 5-0
 Taylor 2, Pugh, Cooper, Feeney
 13 Sheff Wed (H)W 2-0
 Barrett, Arter
 16 Stevenage (H)L 1-3
 Arter
 20 Carlisle (A)L 1-2
 Arter (pen)
 23 WBA (H, CC)L 1-4
 Lovell

27 Walsall (H)L 0-2
 20 Hereford (H, JPT)W 4-1
 Stockley 2, Pugh, MacDonald

September

3 Notts County (A)L 1-3
 Pugh
 10 Chesterfield (H)L 0-3
 13 Leyton Orient (A)W 3-1
 Arter (pen), Thomas, Pugh
 17 Exeter (A)W 2-0
 Thomas, OG
 24 HartlepoolL 1-2
 Gregory

October

1 Tranmere (A)D 0-0
 4 Yeovil (H, JPT)W 3-2
 Pugh 2, OG
 8 RochdaleD 1-1
 Symes pen
 15 MK Dons (A)D 2-2
 Thomas 2
 22 Bury (H)L 1-3
 25 Colchester (A)D 1-1
 Thomas
 29 Preston (A)W 3-1
 Thomas, Malone, Pugh

November

5 Scunthorpe (H)W 2-0
 Malone, Thomas
 12 Gillingham (H, FAC)D 3-3
 Purches, Zubar, Malone,
 19 Wycombe(A)W 1-0
 22 Gillingham (A, FACR)L 2-3
 og, Arter

26 Oldham (H)D 0-0

December

10 Huddersfield (A)W 1-0
 Ater
 17 Sheff Utd (H)L 0-2
 26 Brentford (A)D 1-1
 Sheringham
 31 Yeovil (A)W 3-1
 Gregory, Fogden, Daniels

January

2 Wycombe (H)W 2-0
 Thomas, Symes
 7 Walsall (A)D 2-2
 Symes, Fletcher
 14 Notts County (H)
 Thomas, FogdenW 2-1
 21 TranmereW 2-1
 Thomas, Pugh
 28 Chesterfield(A)

February

4 Exeter(H)
 11 Hartlepool(A)
 14 Leyton Orient(H)
 18 Rochdale(A)
 25 MK Dons(H)

March

3 Charlton(H)
 6 Stevenage(A)
 10 Sheff Wed(A)
 17 Carlisle(H)
 20 Brentford(H)
 24 Oldham(A)
 31 Yeovil(H)

April

7 Sheff Utd(A)
 9 Huddersfield(H)
 14 Bury(A)
 21 Colchester(H)
 28 Scunthorpe(A)

May

5 Preston(H)

LEE Bradbury insists model professional Darryl Flahavan has the ability to defy the years – by continuing his playing career into his forties.

The Cherries manager has shown his faith in the 33-year-old by extending his contract until June 2013, writes **IAN WADLEY.**

Former Saints youngster Flahavan joined Cherries on an initial one-year deal but Bradbury decided to activate a clause for a further season after being impressed by the stopper's performances this term.

Signed as a free agent following his release from Portsmouth, the former Southend star has been an ever-present in League One since his arrival.

Flahavan was set to captain Cherries in Adam Barrett's absence against Tranmere Rovers this weekend.

And Bradbury is confident his first-choice between the sticks has plenty of years ahead of him.

"He is a really good pro," the boss said.

"He has just turned 33 but as a goalkeeper, that is no age really. He could go on to play until he is 40 years old – so age wasn't a problem to me.

Role model

"He has been consistent all season, he is a good leader on and off the pitch and a good role model for our younger keepers.

"We had an option on him and I wanted to take up that option. I went to the board with that, they backed me and let me activate it."

Flahavan has kept eight clean sheets – including one at Tranmere in October – in 26 league appearances for Cherries.

Bradbury believes he is benefiting from a fresh start in Dorset after being starved of regular action during stints with Crystal Palace and Pompey.

"He is in great condition," said the Cherries boss.

"Having not played a long run of first-team games for a couple of years at Portsmouth and Crystal Palace, he has had a lit-

Boss keeps faith with Flahavan



tle rest and feels rejuvenated and ready to go again.

"He says he feels the best he has in a long time."

Flahavan's position in the team was the topic of much discussion during the early stages

of the season after he defeated former number one Shwan Jalal in a pre-season battle to claim the jersey.

Bradbury added: "Darryl has been very consistent.

"Him and Shwan Jalal are

having a good battle in training at the moment.

"They are working very hard with each other, they are united as a goalkeeping team and they push each other all the time, which is fantastic for me.

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Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

Pompey denied by last gasp strike

CRAIG Conway struck in the second minute of second-half stoppage time to ensure a vital npower Championship victory for Cardiff against Portsmouth.

Conway's low drive found the bottom corner with seconds remaining in the match to help the Bluebirds come from behind to secure the win.

Kenny Miller had earlier handed Cardiff the advantage on the quarter-hour mark, planting the ball past Pompey goalkeeper Stephen Henderson from Peter Whittingham's cross after the hosts spent the majority of the early stages in their visitors' half.

Darcy Blake, Miller and Joe Mason had good chances to extend the Bluebirds' lead in an opening period dominated by the Welsh outfit, but Pompey equalised seven minutes before half-time through Marko Futacs, who capitalised on an error by home keeper David Marshall to

slot home. The visitors went in front four minutes after the break, with Greg Halford firing beyond Marshall, but the lead lasted just 20 minutes before Mark Hudson levelled once again ahead of Conway's winner.

Cardiff, who travel to plaid saints at St Mary's on January 31, had the first chance of the match on six minutes, but Aron Gunnarsson could only fire wide when he was played through on goal by Whittingham as the hosts started on the front foot.

Don Cowie also tried his luck without success for the Bluebirds in the early stages before the home side made the most of their dominance to take the lead in the 15th minute.

Whittingham's corner was half-cleared by the fist of Henderson but the in-form playmaker delivered the ball back into the area where Miller was on hand to find the back of the net on the half-

CARDIFF 3 POMPEY 2



ON TARGET: Pompey striker Greg Halford netted his side's second.

volley. The visitors had to wait until the 22nd minute for their first sight of goal, but Dave Kitson was unable to beat Marshall,

while Kelvin Etuhu saw his effort saved by the home keeper two minutes later as Portsmouth began to stage a revival.

Chances were coming thick and fast for both sides, with Miller being denied a second by Henderson before the Scottish striker shot wide when well placed inside the box.

Blake also missed the target at the end of a barnstorming run from halfway, as Cardiff cranked up the pressure in the lead-up to half-time.

But despite all the hosts' opportunities, Pompey levelled after 38 minutes.

Marshall spilled Erich Huseklepp's cross into the path of Hungarian striker Futacs, who gleefully seized on the chance to notch his third goal for the south-coast club.

The equaliser came against the run of play but three minutes after half-time the visitors turned

the game on its head.

Liam Lawrence's corner was not properly cleared by the Cardiff defence and Halford was on hand to beat Marshall on the turn and hand Portsmouth the lead.

Cardiff countered, with Andrew Taylor forcing a save out of Henderson and Conway shooting wide from inside the area, before the promotion-chasing hosts got themselves back on level terms.

Conway provided the assist, crossing for captain Hudson who nodded past Henderson.

Clear-cut chances were at a premium in the final quarter, and the game seemed to be heading towards a draw, before the Bluebirds dug deep to find a late, late winner.

A quick free-kick found its way to Conway, whose low effort found the bottom-right corner to earn Cardiff three crucial points.

POMPEY 2011/12

August

6 Middlesbrough (A) . . . D 2-2
Norris, Varney
9 Barnet (H, CC) L 0-1
13 Brighton (H) L 0-1
16 Reading (H) W 1-0
Kitson
20 Bristol City (A) D 0-0
27 Cardiff (H) D 1-1
Kanu

September

10 West Ham (A) L 3-4
Varney, Norris, Halford
17 Hull (A) L 0-1
24 Blackpool (H) W 1-0
Huseklepp
27 Peterboro (H) L 2-3
og, Benjani

October

1 Leeds (A) L 0-1
15 Barnsley (H) W 2-0
Norris, Varney
18 Ipswich (A) L 0-1
22 Doncaster (H) W 3-1
Varney (2), Kitson
29 Derby L 1-3
Pearce

November

1 Crystal Palace D 0-0
5 Nottm Forest W 3-0
Huseklepp (2), Kitson
19 Watford (A) L 0-2
26 Leicester (H) D 1-1
Norris
29 Birmingham (A) PP

December

3 Coventry (H) W 2-1
Halford, Ward
10 Burnley (A) W 1-0
Norris
17 Southampton (H) . . . D 1-1
Ward
26 Millwall (A) L 0-1
31 Leicester (A) D 1-1
Futacs

January

2 Watford (H) W 2-0
Futacs, Mullins
8 Chelsea (FAC, A) L 0-4
14 West Ham (H) L 0-1
21 Cardiff L 2-3
Futacs, Halford
31 Peterborough (A)

February

4 Hull (H)
11 Blackpool (A)
14 Ipswich (H)
18 Barnsley (A)
25 Leeds (H)

March

3 Middlesbrough (H)
6 Reading (A)
10 Brighton (A)
17 Bristol City (H)
20 Birmingham (H)
24 Coventry (A)
31 Burnley (H)

April

7 Southampton (A)
9 Millwall (H)
14 Doncaster (A)
17 Crystal Palace (H)
21 Derby (H)

Cherries' march up the table continues

CHERRIES 2 TRANMERE 1

WES Thomas and Marc Pugh both bagged their 10th goals of the season as Cherries maintained their promotion push with victory over Tranmere today.

Thomas netted after 18 minutes – albeit with the aid of a deflection – to cancel out Martin Devaney's fourth-minute opener for the visitors.

And winger Pugh grabbed what proved to be the winner with an angled drive into the top corner after 30 minutes.

Boss Lee Bradbury made one change to the Cherries starting line-up with Stephane Zubar drafted in for stricken captain Adam Barrett.

Rovers handed a debut to new loan signing James Wallace from Everton, while West Brom's Lateef Elford-Alliyu also started for the visitors.

The teams traded chances inside the opening two minutes, with Wes Fogden prodding wide following good work by Charlie Daniels and Mustafa Tiriyaki drawing a fine save from Darryl Flahavan.

Devaney seized on some ponderous defending to fire Tranmere in front after just four minutes, the Rovers man latching on to Tiriyaki's flick



GET IN: Wes Thomas was on target for Cherries.

before netting from the edge of the box.

And it could have been worse for Cherries had Wallace not fluffed his lines with a free hit after 16 minutes, the midfielder dragging his effort horribly wide.

Rovers were made to pay almost immediately when Thomas levelled

matters, his shot striking a defender and looping over goalkeeper Paul Rachubka on 18 minutes.

And Pugh put Cherries ahead after 30 minutes, the winger finding the top corner with a clipped effort from around 25 yards following a short corner involving Daniels.

David Buchanan's speculative

effort flew wide at the start of the second half before Rovers substitute Lucas Akins drilled a 30-yard shot straight into the hands of Flahavan.

Harry Arter's curling effort was comfortably saved by Rachubka, although chances were few and far between during an often turgid second period.

TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESULTS

SOUTHERN
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RESULTS



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An incident in a Coventry City v Southampton match

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Daily Echo

Non-league Action

SOUTHERN LEAGUE SOUTH & WEST: SHOLING 3 CLEVEDON TOWN 1

Sholing stay in the chase

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

SHOLING kept themselves in the Evo-Stik South & West promotion race by staging a dramatic second half turnaround at Portsmouth Road this afternoon.

The Boatmen trailed 1-0 at half-time to lowly Clevedon, but scored two goals in two minutes at the start of the second half before Kevin Brewster rounded off a 3-1 victory.

It provided a welcome boost for a Sholing side who had scored just three times in their previous six league games.

Boatmen's boss Dave Diaper welcomed skipper Kevin Gibbens back from suspension and kept faith with teenager Adam Stride at left-back with Marc Diaper serving the second of a two-match ban.

With a blustery wind causing havoc, Sholing largely kept Clevedon penned in their own half in the opening minutes, forcing a couple of early corners through Tyrone Bowers' deflected shot and good persistence by Lee Wort.

But it was the visitors who seized the lead against the run of play on nine minutes when Lloyd Mills laid the ball off to George Brimson on the edge of the box and he drilled it low past keeper Lee Webber into the bottom corner.

Such was the unpredictability of the flight of the ball that referee Jim Paterson did not award a free kick until the 12th minute of a wind-swept encounter.

Still Sholing had the majority of possession, but their recent wastefulness in front of goal was again apparent when Wort hit a first-time shot wide from Byron Mason's knock-down.

Given the conditions, it was well worth a shot from distance and Clevedon's Leigh Edward-Samuels tried just that on 16 minutes with a dipping effort on to the roof of the net.

Clevedon were always dangerous on the break and, thankfully for Sholing, visiting skipper Ashley Kingston's shot rolled



STRIKE: Marvin McLean slots home Sholing's equaliser just after half time.

Pic by Ray Routledge.

harmlessly to Webber after Chas Hemmings had picked out his run into the box.

Kingston then drilled a free kick straight at Sholing's defensive wall following a foul by Lee Bright and, when the ball came back to him, his follow-up drifted well wide.

Both Bowers and Mills needed treatment following a hefty mid-field challenge which saw the Clevedon man booked.

Bowers recovered well, but the visitors had to soldier on with ten men while Mills received further attention by the dug-out.

Unable to continue, he was replaced by Jordan Walker in the 35th minute.

With the game getting ever scrappier and Sholing still strug-

gling in front of goal, Clevedon almost caught them on the break again, but Kingston again fired wide following another excellent lay-off by the towering Hemmings.

Marvin McLean caused panic in the visitors' defence in stoppage time, but again Sholing lacked the killer touch with Gibbens' shot blocked and Byron Mason sending the follow-up wide.

Sholing emerged with renewed determination and within three minutes of the restart had turned the game on its head.

With just seconds on the clock, they drove forward in numbers and, with Clevedon looking in vain for an offside flag, Wort slipped the ball across for McLean to net the simplest of finishes.

Less than two minutes later the

Boatmen were in front when Byron Mason rifled one in low through the crowded area.

On 51 minutes Bowers came close to a third with a dipping snap-shot that went just over.

Sholing had to keep their wits about them to contain a busy Clevedon side who always looked capable of nicking one on the break.

But the Boatmen gave themselves some much needed breathing space on 81 minutes when they made it 3-1.

Bowers began the move, playing in substitute Barry Mason who teed up Kevin Brewster for a neat close-range finish.

In the third minute of added time, Clevedon's sub Walker was shown a second yellow for dissent.

Hampshire rivals stun Eastleigh

BASINGSTOKE 1 EASTLEIGH 0

BASINGSTOKE completed their first ever double over Eastleigh with a 75th minute header from Tim Sills following a corner, giving them a 1-0 victory.

For this Hampshire derby, Eastleigh gave a debut to Bradley Bubb who was previously on loan at Basingstoke.

Early on Damian Scannell had a shot blocked while Chris Flood also went close.

Eastleigh were putting in several crosses, although Basingstoke were generally defending well. However, from one such cross, Angus MacDonald's clearance almost went past the his own goal keeper. Just before half-time MacDonald had a header saved by Eastleigh goalkeeper Dovey following a free-kick and Sean McAuley fired over for Basingstoke.

Tom Jordan had a header tipped over in the second half and Bubb had a shot saved.

Eastleigh, who have now failed to score in their last three league games and will be hoping to return to winning ways when local rivals Salisbury come to the Silverlake Stadium on Tuesday.

City get a precious home win

SALISBURY 2 WOKING 0

SALISBURY took their fourth point of the season from runaway leaders Woking with a hard fought 2-0 win at the Raymond MacEnhill Stadium.

Early on Salisbury's Charlie Losasso aimed a 20-yard effort straight at Cards' keeper Aaron Howe.

Three minutes later the Woking keeper turned villain as he blatantly pulled back Salisbury's Robbie Matthews and was promptly red carded by referee Degnarain.

Matthews grabbed the ball for the spot kick but substitute keeper Andy Little saved Matthews effort.

Matthews made amends in time added on when he rose at the far post to head home a superb Losasso cross.

On the hour Salisbury captain Chris Giles appeared to be shoved in the back in the Woking area and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a second penalty to the Whites, which Brian Dutton tucked home low to the keeper's right.

Woking, who had used all their substitutes were forced to play with nine men on 73 minutes when the impressive Paris Cowan-Hall limped from the action as Salisbury saw out the game.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Kearn's baptism of fire
IT'S not often goalkeeper Stewart Kearn, pictured, conceded four goals in a match for Christchurch – let alone four in the opening 32 minutes.

But despite enduring a baptism of fire for his new club Bashley last Saturday, the experienced stopper has been tipped to succeed at Southern Premier Division level after taking two steps up from the Wessex League.

"It doesn't look like it with the scoreline, but he did well," said Bash boss Steve Riley, whose side were sunk 4-0 at Cambridge City.

"He commanded his area, made a couple of good saves and did well behind the back four."

Od one in for Dossie
SUTTON United – away to Eastleigh in the Blue Square Bet South next Saturday (January 28) – have signed winger Moses Odubajo on a month's loan from Leyton Orient.

The 18-year-old made an instant impression for ex-Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell's, pictured, Us

last Saturday, crossing for Simon Downer to head a stoppage-time equaliser in a 1-1 home draw against basement boys Thurrock.

Non-leaguers land Pele
FORMER Saints defender Pele has signed for Blue Square Bet Premier outfit Hayes & Yeading after reportedly moving back to the Southampton area.

The 33-year-old centre-back – real name Pedro Monteiro – joined Saints in July 2006 from Portuguese club Belenenses in a £1m deal

He made 44 appearances for Saints, scoring once, before West Brom paid £1m for him a year later.

Sholing manager's fact-finding mission helps nullify Poole threat

DAVE Diaper felt it paid to do his homework on Evo-Stik South & West promotion rivals Poole Town.

Although Diaper's Sholing side didn't get the result their chances warranted in a 0-0 draw at Tatnam last Saturday, they did a pretty good job of nullifying the Dolphins' attacking threat.

Diaper had watched Poole outclass Cinderford Town 3-1 four days earlier and knew that former Cherries wing wizard Carl Preston, pictured below, was the man to keep in check.

He said: "Preston was on fire that night. He was a real handful and was the difference between the teams."

Danger man

"We identified him as the danger man and we managed to nullify him a bit.

"I knew Poole played 4-4-2 so we played three in central midfield and for the first 20 minutes we were all over them."

"They had to put (frontman) Steve Smith into midfield to compensate, so we won that battle if you like."

Diaper's midweek fact-finding mission also alerted him to Poole's threat from free kicks and corners and, once again, Sholing stood solidly up to the test.

"Poole are very dangerous from set-pieces and we managed to keep free-kicks to a minimum," he said.

"If the game had been judged on chances created we would have beaten them, but it was a close contest with two good teams giving their all and, overall, I don't have a problem with the result."

"We edged it on chances, particularly in the first half, but they probably did enough to deserve a point."

"But considering we were without the strength of (suspended skipper) Kev Gibbens up top, Marc Diaper (also suspended) and Jack McCarthy (away), it was a really good performance by us."



DAVE DIAPER

TOP MARKS FOR DIAPER HOMEWORK

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"Young Adam Stride came in at left-back and played well as, indeed, did the whole team."

"Poole have come a long way this season. They're one of about ten teams with a good chance of making the play-offs. Anyone who gives away cheap free kicks against them will get found out."

'Poor all round'

Poole boss Tom Killick acknowledged: "Sholing were probably the better team. They had the better chances, particularly in the first half. But the more the game went on and the more Sholing missed chances, the more I thought we might just nick a goal."

"Before the game I was quietly confident we could produce a win with the form we had been in, but Sholing played well."

"They played an extra man in midfield and man-marked Carl Preston. "We were poor all round and were fortunate to escape with a point."



WEAKENED: Sholing were without suspended skipper Kevin Gibbens, left, for the trip to Poole.



BACK LINE BOOST: Rhys Baggridge has improved Poole's defensive record.

Killick hails Baggridge impact

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick believes loan star Rhys Baggridge is crucial to the solid defensive unit that is underpinning the club's promotion push.

The Yeovil Town centre-half has played a key role in helping the Dolphins propel themselves up the Evo-Stik South & West table in recent weeks, writes Ian Wadley.

Since Baggridge made his debut against Tiverton on December 19, the Tatnam outfit have kept five clean sheets and conceded just twice in his seven unbeaten appearances.

The Welshman celebrated the extension of his temporary deal – which is set to run until March 15 – by helping Poole record their latest shut-out against promotion rivals Sholing last Saturday.

Manager Killick has been impressed with the level of the 19-year-old defender's performances. "It's been brilliant to have Rhys at the club," he said.

"For the first month we didn't make a contribution to his wages and that was a brilliant gesture from Yeovil."

"He is a strong character – very

determined – and for a young lad that is slightly unusual."

"He has fitted in well, the players like him and he has been a revelation."

"Rhys and Michael Walker have been a really strong partnership. Kevin Gill is playing well at right-back and, with either Pete Smith or Will Spetch at left-back, we have looked very strong."

"(Goalkeeper) Nick Hutchings is playing exceptionally well and when you put that together, it is no surprise we have conceded so few goals."

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football



DANNY BOWERS

BOWERS HITS OUT AT 'ATROCIOUS' HAMBLE

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

GE HAMBLE co-boss Danny Bowers reckons Tuesday's "atrocious" 3-2 defeat at Brading Town has killed the Planemakers' chances of springing a Sydenhams Premier championship surprise.

Although he had never been so bold as to tip his team for the title, Bowers was feeling cautiously optimistic of ramping up the pressure on Winchester and Bemerton following last Saturday's 3-1 win over Hayling United.

But having endured one of the worst nights of his managerial career at Brading's Peter Henry Ground, he feels the best the Planemakers can hope for is to cling onto third spot.

Despite opening the scoring with a Jamie Musselwhite penalty, the Planemakers fell 2-1 down before Lewis Fennemore hit back before

'We were absolutely atrocious and thoroughly deserved to get beat'

half-time.

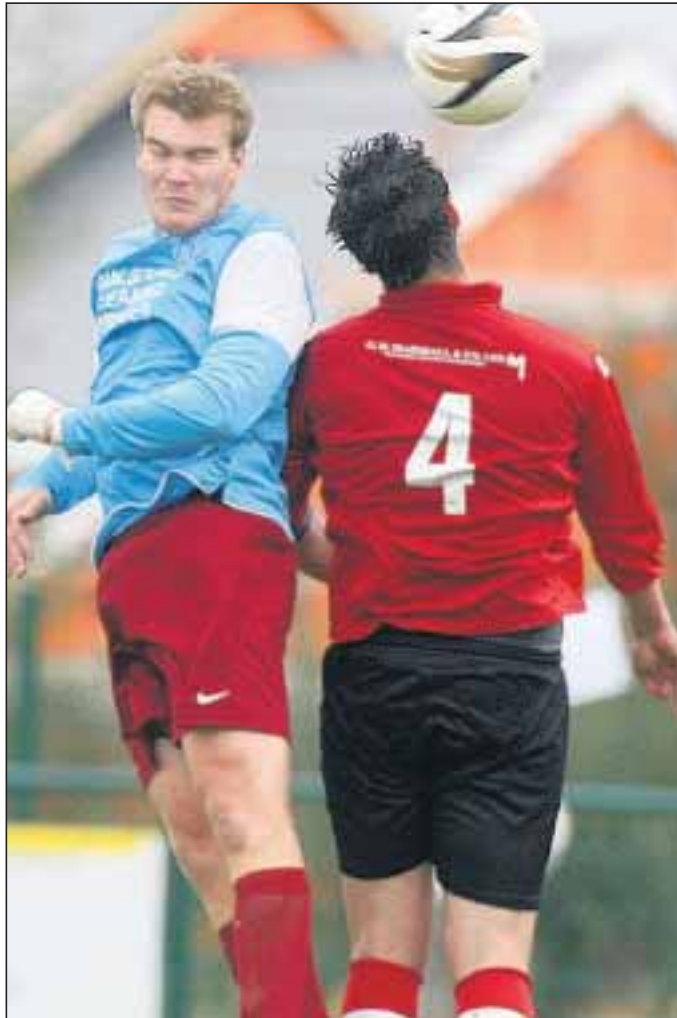
Musselwhite and Rory Williams – who came on as a not fully fit sub – both hit the woodwork, but slack marking by Dan Turner gifted the Islanders a winner as Hamble's hapless defence was undone by a long ball.

Had the Planemakers won they would have edged to within a point of second-placed Bemerton, but a furious Bowers admitted they deserved nothing from their night's 'work'.

"It's the worst performance I've seen since I've been back at the club," he fumed.

"We were absolutely atrocious and thoroughly deserved to get beat.

"Our defending killed us. It wasn't



ON TARGET: GE Hamble's Jamie Musselwhite, left.

even up to parks football standard.

"We hit the woodwork a couple of times in the second half, but then Dan Turner's left his man and the Brading lad's raced onto a long ball and scored the winner.

"The refereeing never helps when you're playing on the Island. It's

like them having a 12th man.

"But no way was the referee responsible for what happened tonight. The three goals we conceded were entirely down to us. We were awful.

"We didn't even work hard. It was just a joke."

Co-manager writes off title hopes after defeat at Brading

In Hamble's defence, several players were unable to get off work in time to make the cross-Solent trip.

But no way was Bowers using that as an excuse.

"I'm not going to hide behind the fact that we had a few players missing. You've got what you've got and you have to get on with it," he said. "The squad was still strong enough to have got a result."

With four points to make up on Bemerton and a seven-point gap to bridge on league leaders

'Our defending killed us. It wasn't even up to parks football standard'

Winchester City, Hamble certainly have their work cut out to improve on third spot.

"Barring a miracle, that's the title out of the window for us," said Bowers.

"No disrespect to Brading, they fully deserved to beat us. But if you want to win the title you've got to come to places like this and win.

"When Gosport won the title (when Bowers was assistant to Alex Pike) they fought and scrapped for every point, but we haven't done that against Brading. The way we conducted ourselves was a disgrace.

"If we'd drawn it would have been a travesty and if we'd won it would have been massively embarrassing."

Non-league News

Money men cash in
THE New Forest must feature highly on Moneyfields' list of favourite locations.

Miles Rutherford's side ventured into national park territory three times last week – and came away victorious on each occasion.

Having seen off Lymington Town 3-0 in the Sydenhams Premier Division, the Money men squeezed past Brockenhurst 3-2 to book their place in the SWL Cup semi-finals.

Then last Saturday they completed a hat-trick of successful Forest forays as midfielder Luke Middleton, above, scored twice in a 2-0 triumph at Fawley AFC which extended their winning streak to eight games.

Turk lured by Ciren
CIRENCESTER Town have "thrown the kitchen sink" at Evo-Stik Premier Division survival by signing 30-year-old former Salisbury City midfielder Wayne Turk.

Turk, who recently returned to Salisbury on loan, has taken a drop in wages to sign for the Centurions from Blue Square Bet Premier outfit Forest Green Rovers.

For Turk, pictured, one of the first graduates from the Cirencester Academy, it's a case of going back to his roots.

"It's a bit of a coup to get Wayne on board," admitted Cirencester boss Brian Hughes. "All credit to him. He has sacrificed a lot of money to play his football here."

Minute's silence

ANDOVER New Street were due to hold a minute's silence ahead of today's (Saturday's) Sydenhams One game against US Portsmouth. It was a mark of respect for the passing of Jason Goddard, aged 40.

Jason scored his last goal at Foxcote Park with Vernham Labels FC.

A celebration of his life will take place in New Street's clubhouse on Thursday.

But it's not all bad news for Hamble ...

TWO-goal James Thomson fired GE Hamble reserves into the semi-finals of the Southampton Senior Cup at the expense of former club and favourites Sholing at Portsmouth Road last Saturday.

The ex-Romsey Town man struck first on the 20-minute mark and again on the stroke of half-time to seal a 2-0 victory,

writes Matt Watts.

The Planemakers dominated for large spells of an action-packed first 45 minutes.

Sholing made a strong start to the second half and had a goal-bound effort cleared off the line.

But Dave Fear's unbeaten Wyvern Premier Division table-toppers were

unable to break Hamble's resistance, with goalkeeper and club stalwart Nick O'Donnell, pictured left, in inspired form.

Hamble boss David Herbert said: "I am absolutely delighted with the performance and effort of my lads. They thoroughly deserved this victory against a strong, organised Sholing team."



Non-league Football

Non-league News

Boss Day takes control
MANAGER Spencer Day has reluctantly taken over as owner of Blue Square Bet South club Farnborough – to prevent it going bust for a second time in four years. Day stepped in after talks with a consortium, fronted by former club captain Tim O'Shea, broke down.

"I will take control of the club, but the bottom line is I'm not happy. I've not come to the club to own it," said Day.

Admitting the north Hampshire club's finances are in a "very, very poor state", he explained: "My plan is to move the shares into our working company and we will do our best to put the club on a sound financial footing."

"Ultimately the club will be put up for sale again very shortly. If the right offer comes in then we will look at it very sensibly."

Not Bye to Warren!

WEYMOUTH striker Warren Byerley this week turned down the chance to talk to an unnamed club who registered a bid for his services.

The mystery bid was accepted by the Terras, but the 26-year-old former Hamworthy United and Gosport Borough hitman is more than happy at the Bob Lucas Stadium.

George Rolls, who is set to return as Weymouth chairman, confirmed: "We accepted a bid for Warren but I have spoken to him about it and he does not want to leave, which is fine by us."

Neighbours Dorchester Town are interested in Byerley, but Rolls clarified: "The offer we received is nothing to do with Dorchester."

Priory Raise the Roof
CHRISTCHURCH are hosting a skittles competition next Saturday (January 28, 7pm) in a bid to boost its Raise The Roof fund.

All money raised will go towards the completion of Sydenhams Premier club's changing room project.

The event is open to all and entry is £10 per team, up to a maximum of six players. Entries should be confirmed via email to chairman@christchurchfc.co.uk or functions@hurnbridgesports.co.uk

MILLERS' MAGIC MONDAY NO SURPRISE TO DAWTRY

TOTTON & Eling's 2-1 Monday night win at title-chasing Bemerton may have stunned the rest of the league – but not Little Testwood Farm boss Kev Dawtry.

On paper the mid-table Millers had little hope of upsetting a Harlequins side who had strung together a formidable 19-game unbeaten run in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

But despite losing 1-0 at home to Romsey on December 28, T&E had been quietly making progress in the run-up to Christmas, winning three and drawing one of their previous four games.

"We've been playing pretty well for a couple of months now, so it was no great surprise to me that we beat Bemerton," said Dawtry, pictured below.

"It's always difficult when you lose 12 or 13 players in the summer like we did and it takes time to get continuity, but we've got things sorted out now in terms of the squad."

"The only aspect of Monday's result that was a bit surprising was that we hadn't played since December 28."

"But the lads have been training hard. We had them in on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday last week and Tuesday and Thursday the week before. It's not the same as playing, but it keeps them fit."

The Millers took the lead shortly before half-time when Steve Marwood was fouled on the edge of the area and got up to sink the penalty.

Bemerton hit back through Kane O'Keefe, but were undone again when Jack Eves failed to deal with a long ball through the middle and Callum Oliver punished them with a smart half-volley into the bottom corner.

"In the first-half we passed them off the field," said Dawtry. "They came out and had a go at us in the second half but we responded more or less straight away."



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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"It was a good finish from Callum. He hit it first time whereas as lot of players would have taken a touch and then hit it."

"We played with three young lads up front. Callum and Zac Anderson are only 18 and Craig Feeney's just turned 19."

"Plus we had the young Saints lad, Steve Mowthorpe, in goal and he's only just turned 18."

"Steve will play as many games for us as he can, as long as it doesn't clash with Saints, and see how he copes with senior football."

"He's been very good for us and it helps that he's had a settled defence in front of him."

"Phil Ward's playing regularly now and he and Jamie Feasey did well at Bemerton in central defence."

"And having Danny Steer back at left-back has also helped."

"Earlier in the season we had different back fours and two or three keepers in and out of the side."

"We've conceded 43 goals this season but 14 of them came in three games in September/October time when we drew 3-3 at Newport and then lost 5-4 at Downton and 6-2 at home to Fareham."

"It wasn't very difficult to work out what our problem was and the lads have worked hard to rectify that."

"I had to leave two or three out on Monday and pick a team I thought would win, which was difficult because they've all worked hard and everyone wants to play."

"But we've got eight games coming up in 25 days so I would imagine everyone will."

One player who won't be featuring is frontman Paddy James, who has switched camps to Lymington Town.



IMPRESSIVE IN DEFENCE: Totton & Eling's Phil Ward, left.

Totton & Eling clean up their act

TOTTON & Eling have not only enjoyed a marked upturn in form of late, they have cleaned up their disciplinary record too. "Last season we finished bottom of the disciplinary table by as many points as Poole won the league!" joked manager Kev Dawtry.

But, in reality, the Millers' hefty haul of red and yellow cards was no laughing matter.

"It's something we spoke about," said Dawtry. "Last year we got too involved in arguing with the referee and fighting the opposition and we weren't very good because of it."

"But this year we haven't been getting involved like that and our results are much better."

"You can talk to referees in a certain manner and hopefully get your point across, but when you rant and rave all the time they will give decisions against

you and I think we've learned that."

"Word has got round about our striker Craig Feeney and he's been subject to some tasty tackles, but he just gets up and gets on with it. And that's the way it should be because when people realise you're not going to react, they are less likely to do it."

The Millers' change of playing personnel may well have helped them this season – not least the departure of serial offender Adam Lowther to Lymington Town.

Lowther, though, is now back at Little Testwood Farm along with Danny Steer, who was no choirboy either in 2010/11.

"Three of our worst culprits went to Lymington – and two of them are back, so maybe our good

record will disintegrate!" laughed Dawtry.

"Adam was booked at Bemerton on Monday but it was a bit of curious one. As he went to clear the ball, a Bemerton player handled it and Lowther caught it and said 'handball' before the whistle had gone."

"The ref was so flummoxed that he gave a free-kick to us and booked Lowther for dissent!"

"I suppose we should be grateful because he could have given a free kick against us on the edge of our box."

Totton & Eling are currently a respectable sixth in the Wessex Premier's fair play league which is topped by Christchurch.

Blackfield & Langley have taken over the Millers' 'bad boy' mantle and are propping up the table.

SYDENHAMS PREMIER DIVISION FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

1 Christchurch	4.09
2 Romsey Town	4.36
3 Alresford Town	4.48
4 GE Hamble	4.61
5 Alton Town	5.16
6 Totton & Eling	5.39
7 Bournemouth Poppies	5.56
8 Bemerton HH	5.77
9 Winchester City	5.92
10 New Milton Town	6.00
11 Newport (IOW)	6.12
12 Brading Town	6.20
13 Fawley AFC	6.22
14 Laverstock & Ford	6.81
15 Lymington Town	6.88
16 Moneyfields	7.08
17 Fareham Town	7.20
18 Downton	7.32
19 Hamworthy United	7.32
20 Horn Dean	7.90
21 Hayling United	8.56
22 Blackfield & Langley	11.20

DON'T MISS MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE

Non-league Football

Arnold makes case for the defence



ADIE Arnold says his unsung defensive heroes deserve their share of the credit for Verwood Town's table-topping form.

John Webb (2), Charlie Gajic, Luke Homer, Russell Dyer and top scorer Mike Haskell were all on target as the Potters hit East Cowes Vics for six last Saturday to extend their unbeaten Sydenhams One run to 19 games.

But it was Verwood's seldom mentioned rear-guard troops that Arnold focused on after his

side had racked up their eighth clean sheet of the campaign.

"We have had a settled team and I think the back five should take a lot of credit for what we have achieved," he said.

"Any success is built on the back five and the base we have got from there has been superb and it has let our flair players score.

"The defenders don't often get credit, but

they have been excellent and that is what we have built the success on."

Although Arnold recognises that there is still a lot of work to do to secure the title, he said: "I think we are the best team in the league and we are proving that now.

"We've got an honest bunch of players and they are talented players. I hope they get the chance to play in the Premier Division next season."

LEAP OF FAITH: John Webb celebrates one of his goals against East Cowes Victoria.

Photograph by Roy Mortimer

Simon Walter

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ROMSEY Town manager Wayne Mew was proud of his side's brave Hampshire Senior Cup quarter-final performance at Eastleigh.

Ryan Long scored both goals as Romsey went down 3-2 at the Silverlake Stadium against their ambitious Blue Square South neighbours.

The left winger netted a 65th-minute equaliser from Macs Sampays' clever through ball, after Chris Flood had given Eastleigh the lead at the beginning of the second half.

Eastleigh were soon reduced to ten men when, having used all his substitutes, manager Ian Baird saw Jordace Holder-Spooner carried off six minutes after coming on.

But another sub, the experienced Jamie Brown, outmuscled Romsey captain Ross Gregory to restore Eastleigh's lead in the 75th minute.

And Gregory was unfortunate to be penalised for a back pass after his sliding tackle on Richard Gillespie was picked up by goalkeeper Matt Brown.

From the resulting free-kick, Eastleigh defender Mitchell Nelson fired in the controversial winner.



ROMSEY BEATEN BUT UNBOWED

Mew takes positives from cup loss to Eastleigh

Long, having been switched to a more central role, volleyed his and Romsey's second in injury-time to set up an interesting finish.

Mew, pictured left, took the positives from Romsey's first defeat in 18 matches.

He said: "The lads went out with the right attitude from the start. Considering it was Eastleigh's first team, we gave them a good game.

"Ryan took his goals well after a couple of weeks out with a bad back, his pace causes problems for most defenders.

"Obviously they had more chances than us but we could have easily equalised and pulled it back to 3-3.

"The lads went out with the right attitude. Considering it was Eastleigh's first team we gave them a good game"

"We did ourselves proud. There was a dubious offside against us and their third was dubious as I didn't think it was a back pass.

"It's disappointing to be at the end of a long unbeaten run but losing 3-2 at Eastleigh is no let down. It was just a shame we conceded in the first minute of the second half. If we'd held on for another ten minutes I think it would have been a different game.

"But we steadied the ship and came back at them."



CUP DOUBLE: Romsey Town's Ryan Long.

Non-league News

Mac joins Hatters

FORMER Eastleigh, Basingstoke and Pirelli General frontman Craig McAllister has joined Luton Town on loan.

The 31-year-old Newport County striker, below, has agreed a deal – subject to international clearance – to stay with County's Blue Square Bet Premier rivals until the end of the season.

The powerful 6ft 1in forward signed for Newport in the summer having helped

Crawley Town win promotion to the Football League.

Although born in Scotland, McAllister grew up in

Southampton and began his career with Pirelli General and Eastleigh.

He signed for Basingstoke in 2002, scoring 53 times in 96 appearances, and, following interest from several Football League clubs, earned himself a move to Stevenage Borough.

Stints at Woking, Grays, Oxford United and Exeter followed before he signed up for Crawley's 'Project Promotion.' Not only did he score a dozen goals for Steve Evans' Red Devils, but he also proved the perfect foil for prolific former Salisbury marksman Matt Tubbs.

"Craig has proven quality in this division and in the division above and that record is hard to ignore," said Luton boss Gary Brabin.

H&W sign Pompey

HAVANT & Waterlooville have signed recent Portsmouth arrival Dan Thompson on loan until the end of the season.

The 18-year-old striker has just joined Pompey on a one-year scholarship with a view to landing a professional contract.

He is a product of the Hampton & Richmond Borough youth set-up.

Thompson went on as a 71st-minute substitute last Saturday as the ten-man Hawks pulled themselves back from 1-0 down to win 2-1 against Maidenhead United having had Bobby Hopkinson sent off.

Sub Ryan Woodford sparked the amazing fightback with a thumping header and ex-Brading Town striker Scott Jones struck late to secure the points.

Non-league Football



LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, January 23
npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship (7.45): SAINTS v Leicester.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Division One East: Winchester City v Fareham Town.

Tuesday, January 24
CARLING CUP
Semi-Final, second leg: Cardiff v Crystal Palace.
npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Notts County v Preston, Scunthorpe v Sheff Wed, Stevenage v Milton Keynes Dons.
6
League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Macclesfield, Torquay v Dag & Red.
FA CARLSBERG TROPHY
Second round: Worksop v Newport County.
BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Barrow v Grimsby, Bath City v Alfreton Town, Ebbsfleet United v Tamworth, Fleetwood Town v Braintree Town, Forest Green v Wrexham, Hayes & Yeading v Darlington, Kettering v Gateshead, Kidderminster v York, Lincoln City v Southport, Stockport v AFC Telford.
South: Eastleigh v Salisbury City, Staines v Dartford.
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
Quarter-finals: AFC Totton v AFC Portchester, Havant & Waterlooville v Sholing.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Clevedon v Poole, Paulton Rovers v Bishops Cleeve (7.30), Tiverton v Didcot.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Totton & Eling v Christchurch.
Division One: Petersfield v Stockbridge, Tadley Calleva v Whitchurch, Team Solent v Cowes Sports.
BASINGSTOKE SENIOR CUP
Quarter-final: Alton v Overton.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
WL Cup, quarter-final: Sholing v Gosport Borough.

Wednesday, January 25
CARLING CUP
Semi-Final, second leg: Liverpool v Man City.
BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE
Premier: Luton v Mansfield.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup, quarter-final: Newport IoW v Downton.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Division One: Locks Heath v Liphook.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Poole Town v Bashley.

Thursday, January 26

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Moneyfields v Eastleigh.

Friday, January 27
FA CUP
Fourth round: Everton v Fulham, Watford v Tottenham.
npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Chesterfield v Bournemouth.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Division One: Amesbury v Andover NS.

Saturday, January 28
(3pm ko unless stated otherwise)
FA CUP
Fourth round: Blackpool v Sheff Wed, Derby v Stoke, Hull v Crawley Town, Liverpool v Man Utd (12.45), Stevenage v Notts County, West Brom v Norwich, Leicester v Swindon, Millwall v SAINTS, QPR v Chelsea (noon), Bolton v Swansea, Brighton v Newcastle (5.15), Sheff Utd v Birmingham.
npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship: Peterborough v Portsmouth, Reading v Bristol City.
League 1: Brentford v Wycombe, Exeter v Charlton, Hartlepool v Carlisle, Leyton Orient v Colchester, Rochdale v Bury, Tranmere v Huddersfield, Yeovil v Preston.
League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Aldershot, Accrington Stanley v Gillingham, Barnet v Crewe, Bristol Rovers v Bradford, Dag & Red v Rotherham, Hereford v Shrewsbury, Macclesfield v Cheltenham, Port Vale v Plymouth, Torquay v Northampton.
FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE
Fulham Yth v SAINTS YTH (11.00).
BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE
Premier: Braintree Town v Barrow, Cambridge Utd v Tamworth, Darlington v York, Ebbsfleet United v Mansfield, Forest Green v Fleetwood Town, Gateshead v Newport County, Grimsby v AFC Telford, Hayes & Yeading v Southport, Kettering v Lincoln City, Luton v Alfreton Town, Stockport v Kidderminster, Wrexham v Bath City.
South: Boreham Wood v Woking, Dartford v Thurrock, Dover v Salisbury City, Eastbourne Borough v Maidenhead, Eastleigh v Sutton Utd, Farnborough v Basingstoke, Havant & Waterlooville v Hampton & Richmond, Truro v Staines, Welling v Chelmsford, Weston-super-Mare v Bromley.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Banbury v Stourbridge, Barwell v Arlesey, Bashley v Frome, Cirencester v AFC Totton, Evesham v Swindon Supermarine, Hemel Hempstead v Cambridge City, Hitchin v Chesham, Leamington v

Chippenham, Oxford City v Weymouth, Redditch v Brackley, St Albans v Bedford.
Division One South & West: Bideford v Halesowen, Cinderford v Sholing, Clevedon v Wimborne, Gosport Borough v Bridgwater, Hungerford v Didcot, North Leigh v Stourport Swifts, Paulton Rovers v Abingdon Utd, Poole Town v Mangotsfield, Taunton v Bishops Cleeve, Yate v Thattham.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford v Romsey, Bemerton HH v Bournemouth Poppies, Blackfield & Langley v Alton, Brading v Downton, Fawley v Totton & Eling, Hamworthy v Fareham, Hayling v Newport IoW, Lymington v Christchurch, Moneyfields v GE Hamble, New Milton v Horndean, Winchester City v Laverstock & Ford.
Division One: AFC Portchester v Verwood, East Cowes Vics v Petersfield, Pewsey Vale v Fleet Spurs, Tadley Calleva v Cowes Sports, Team Solent v Stockbridge, US Portsmouth v Hythe & Dibden, Warminster v Ringwood, Whitchurch v Brockenhurst.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
PEHPL Cup, quarter-finals: Liphook v AFC Stoneham, Paulsgrove v Sporting BW.
Division One: Bournemouth Sports v Hedge End Rangers, Golden Common v AFC Aldermaston, Hamble Club v Overton, Liss Athletic v Otterbourne, Locks Heath v Clanfield, QK Southampton v Fleetlands, Winchester Castle v University of Portsmouth.
Combination Division: AFC Aldermaston v Hamble Club, AFC Stoneham v Liphook, Clanfield v Golden Common, Fleetlands v Winchester Castle, Otterbourne v QK Southampton, Overton v Liss Athletic, Sporting BW v Paulsgrove.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Moneyfields, Christchurch v Bashley, Newport IoW v Gosport Borough, Sholing v Bemerton HH, Wimborne v Dorchester.
Division One East: Alton v Whitchurch, Fareham v AFC Portchester, GE Hamble v Tadley Calleva.
Division One West: Downton v Verwood, Laverstock & Ford v Fawley, Ringwood v Brockenhurst, Romsey v East Cowes Vics, Totton & Eling v Hythe & Dibden.

MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE 2004
 Crusaders v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Durlay v Fair Oak, Four Marks v Broughton, Horndean Utd v Andover Lions, Mottisfont v Upham.
TrophyMan Cup: Infinity v Portsmouth RN.

SOFTLEY MEN ON SOLID PREMIER FOOTING



DOWNTON boss Jeff Softley feels his side can mix it with the very best in Sydenhams Premier Division – despite suffering back-to-back defeats against the top two.

After slipping up 2-1 at local rivals Bemerton Heath Harlequins, the Robins lost 2-0 at home to league leaders Winchester City last Saturday.

Just two minutes after City's Jamie White had converted a penalty given for a foul by Josh Thomas, Downton felt aggrieved not to have been awarded a spot kick of their own.

Winchester broke and ex-Saint White – now the league's top scorer with 27 goals in 16 games – bagged his second just before the hour.

It was the first time in 32 league and cup games this season that Softley's side had

New boys go toe-to-toe with top-flight elite

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

failed to score.

"We played really well and were unfortunate to have a penalty given against us," said Softley, pictured above.

"We had a blatant penalty turned down, but we weren't ever going to win the game. We could have held on for a point.

"I have never faced a side that good at getting men behind the ball and then breaking quickly.

"And Winchester have an outstanding goalscorer in Jamie White."

Eighth-placed Downton,

though, have much to be proud of in their first season up from Division One.

"We have lost to the top two sides, but we haven't lost heavily, so I am pleased," said Softley.

City boss Guy Butters was also a happy man. "Downton's a difficult place to come and they aren't a bad side," he acknowledged. "We had to be on our guard to make sure we didn't slip up here."

The Robins' Wiltshire Senior Cup quarter-final at home to Calne Town on Tuesday was abandoned at half-time.

The hosts were leading 2-0 through a Declan McGregor double.

Birmingham heads trio of Cams Alders arrivals

FAREHAM Town have made three additions to their Sydenhams Premier Division squad – one of whom needs no introduction.

Reds fans will readily remember experienced defender Dave Birmingham, pictured right, who has returned to Cams Alders following a stint with divisional rivals Moneyfields.

The other two arrivals, Lewis Smith and Kieron Lewis, are new to the club and the area.

Smith, a full-back, has joined Town after being released from Cambridge United where he had spent two seasons playing for their academy side in the Eastern Counties Premier Division.

Centre-back Lewis, meanwhile, has climbed aboard from Hampshire Premier League neighbours University of Portsmouth whom he joined after moving to

the area to study.

He has previously played in the Southern League Premier Division for Oxford City.

"In Kieron and Lewis, I genuinely believe we have two exciting youngsters who Town supporters will enjoy watching on a regular basis," said Fareham boss Matt Parr.

"Dave Birmingham has been there, done that got the T-shirt and gives us some much-needed experience."

Birmingham made his latest Reds debut in last Saturday's 0-0 draw against Horndean.

Dan Hayes went close to winning it for Horndean when his shot came back off the inside of the post with ten minutes remaining.

Instead, his afternoon ended on a miserable note when he was sent off for a second bookable offence.



Hythe & Dibden in mourning for Tony

HYPHE & Dibden are mourning the loss of club stalwart Tony Moyst who passed away last weekend, aged 69. Tony held the role of secretary at Jones Lane for an incredible 50 years and was still an active member of the club even after his retirement. "Tony enjoyed socialising with everyone involved in football," said a spokesman for the Sydenhams Division One club. "He will be sadly missed by all."

Saluting Moyst's loyal service to the club, H&D president Dave Cox added: "Moysty was a good secretary. He'd been at Hythe since he

was 17. He had a motorbike accident which meant he couldn't play football, but he stayed with the club all those years.

"He only gave up the secretary's job about three years ago because he couldn't handle all the modern paperwork.

"He was the sort of person all non-League clubs need. He got an award for his contribution to football from the Hampshire FA and the Wessex League also honoured him for 50 years' service.

"He's a huge loss and we will all miss him."

SUNDAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL - SEE PAGES 30&32

Non-league Football

It's good to talk! Hammers halt slide

HAMWORTHY United tore up the form book last Saturday to grab a much-needed 2-0 victory over fourth-placed Christchurch.

After six consecutive defeats in the Sydenhams Premier Division, the Hammers hit back with a goal in each half from leading marksman Luke Burbidge.

Relieved boss Simon Browne, pictured right, revealed that crunch talks – and a change of approach – had helped his team stop the rot.

"We came in early on Saturday morning

and got everyone focused and up for the game," he explained.

"The Christmas break messed up our training schedule a bit and we did not feel like we had everyone in at the same time.

"We'd had a team meeting on the Tuesday night and outlined what we wanted to do to get out of the slump.

"It was really to get everyone's head right and turn up for football and football alone.

"I was pleased it worked because, if it hadn't, we would have looked a bit stupid!"

Christchurch boss Graham Kemp blamed himself for the defeat – Priory's first in 14 league games.

"I think I picked the wrong team, to be honest," he confessed.

"We had drawn three on the trot and, rather than thinking they were good draws, I tried to change things to get the win and it didn't come off for us.

"I don't think the players covered themselves in glory, but I have got to take my share of the blame as well. I thought we lacked a bit of balance.

"Hamworthy were worthy winners."



Kemp: we've left ourselves too much to do in title race

GRAHAM Kemp feels Christchurch have left themselves with too much to do to challenge for the Sydenhams Premier Division title.

Fourth-placed Priory fell further behind the leading pack last Saturday when they slipped up 2-0 at Hamworthy United.

It ended the Hurn Bridge outfit's 13-match unbeaten league run and meant they had failed to register a win in their last four games.

Priory still have games in hand over the top clubs, but manager Kemp, below, believes their more realistic target is to better last season's sixth-placed league finish and concentrate on winning a cup.

"We had a period leading up to Christmas where we had eight straight league wins and were genuine title contenders," he said.

"But we were going to have to have the same run to compete with Winchester and it looks very unlikely that that is going to happen.

"Our target was always to do better than last season and to win a cup – and that remains the target.

"I think we have left ourselves a bit too much to do to catch Winchester and Bemerton."

One piece of silverware Christchurch will not be competing for is the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

Having been reinstated into the competition following Gosport Borough's removal, Priory were knocked straight back out again by Winchester on Tuesday.

Sam Griffin put Christchurch ahead, but back surged City through Jamie White (2) and Mark Lilley to book their semi-final spot.

Kemp, meanwhile, has given former Priory keeper Dan Loader the chance to prove himself again at Hurn Bridge following Stewart Kearn's shock exit to Bashley.

"Dan was with us before Stewart Kearn. He was a bright prospect before he broke his leg a month before he was due to go on trial with Aldershot," said the boss.

"I have promised to give him a chance."



LEARNING CURVE FOR SALISBURY

ASSISTANT boss Mikey Harris says Salisbury City were "taught a lesson" by York in the FA Trophy last Saturday.

Whites' hopes of reaching the last 16 were ruthlessly blown away by the Minstermen who cruised to a 6-2 victory at Old Sarum, **writes WENDY GEE.**

"York are an excellent side and they are fifth in the Conference Premier," said Harris. "They came here and taught us a lesson in how to be clinical, how to move the ball quickly and how to get back into shape when you're out of possession.

"They were also organised, well drilled and had everything else that comes with a successful team.

"I thought they were excellent.

"We knew it was going to be a difficult game and unfortunately we fell short.

"At 3-0 down it was all over and it's very difficult to come back. But, credit to our lads, I don't think anyone can deny that they didn't stop running."

With their FA Cup and Trophy adventures now over, Whites must knuckle down to the nitty-gritty of heaving themselves out of the Blue Square Bet South's bottom six.

Once again this week they have done some squad rebuilding, letting midfielder Michael Alexis go and bringing in 19-year-old midfielder Matt Clark, released from Swindon Town.

Also new in is another 19-year-old, forward Abdulai Bell-Baggie, from Hayes & Yeading.

Bell-Baggie has represented England's under-16s and under-17s, gaining two caps at each level.

He spent the early part of his career in the Reading and Southampton youth set-ups and was loaned by Reading to Rotherham United, Port Vale and Crawley Town.

In August this year he signed con-



OLD SARUM EXIT: Midfielder Michael Alexis, left. **INSET:** Mikey Harris.

tract terms for Yeovil Town, but was released and joined Hayes.

"It's a difficult time at the club at the moment – there is a transition period going on," said Harris. "But it's important we all stick together and get our way back up that league."

Salisbury's BSB South fixture at

Basingstoke Town, which was frozen off last Tuesday, has been rearranged for Tuesday, February 14 (7.45).

This coming Tuesday (January 24, 7.45) they renew old rivalries with Ian Baird's Eastleigh at the Silverlake Stadium.

Non-league News

Eastleigh target junior supporters

EASTLEIGH are looking to attract the next generation of fans by launching a Junior Spitfire Club.

New club backers Bridle Insurance are convinced that to achieve their initial aim of attracting 1,000-strong crowds to the Silverlake Stadium, they need to get more youngsters behind them.

By becoming a Junior Spitfire, young fans will enjoy a package of goodies and discounts and get the chance to become an official matchday mascot.

For just £15 they will receive:

- Exclusive entry into Eastleigh's 'Matchday Mascot draw';
- A Junior Spitfire membership pack featuring Eastleigh FC goodies, including drinks bottle, key ring, Bridle bag and more;
- 10 per cent discount on all school holiday soccer courses;
- Reduction on official replica shirts;
- Membership card;
- Two tickets to attend a match around their birthday – one for the Junior Spitfire and one for an accompanying adult;
- Spitfire birthday and Christmas cards.

To get involved call 023 8064 5526 or email fic@eastleigh-fc.co.uk for an application form.

Bridle are also set to launch a new 'Guard of Honour' initiative at next Saturday's (January 28) home game against Sutton United in the Blue Square Bet South.

Thirty flag-waving youngsters will line up by the tunnel to greet the players as they come onto the field.

The 'Guard of Honour' has already proved successful at Oxford United, where Bridle are also sponsors.

"We're going to launch it with our own academy youngsters and then get local clubs involved," explained Bridle's chief operations officer Neil Fox.

"The teams will come along as our guests, get free coaching on the Astroturf pitch, a tour of the stadium and a chance to meet the players.

"Their parents will get in cut price. "We've been doing it at Oxford and it works well. So well, in fact, that the waiting list goes through to the middle of next season!"

Chairman search

TOTTEN & Eling are still on the lookout for a new chairman having been without one since the start of the season.

"Mike Clarke's been doing the job and he does it well, but he's also the secretary so it's difficult for him to do both," said Dawtry.

Applicants for the chairman's post can ring Michael Clarke on 07825 576359 or write to him at michael@clarke96.orange-home.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

AS Muhammad Ali – the self-styled, and widely acknowledged ‘Greatest’ – celebrated his 70th birthday this week, Mark Staniforth picks his all-time boxing top 10.

- 1. MUHAMMAD ALI:** The Rumble in the Jungle and his Thrilla in Manila remain perhaps the two most iconic fights in boxing history – but one only needs to view the dazzling armoury he displayed in his 1966 fight against Cleveland Williams to realise just why Ali was, just as he said, ‘The Greatest’.
- 2. SUGAR RAY ROBINSON:** The only man whose ringcraft held a candle to that of Ali. First world welterweight champion and five times world middleweight champion, Robinson reigned in an era of stars, and his six-fight rivalry with Jake La Motta is one of the sport’s best.
- 3. JIMMY WILDE:** Probably the best flyweight of all time; certainly the best fighter Britain has ever produced. The Welshman’s pale and skinny physique belied the power of his punches. He was world champion from 1916 to 1923 and he won an incredible 130 of his 134 decision bouts.
- 4. JOE LOUIS:** ‘The Brown Bomber’ ruled the heavyweight roost with dignity and dynamism for almost two decades. He reigned as champion from 1937 to 1949, making 25 defences of his title. He was the first black heavyweight champion since Jack Johnson but was a hero for all Americans.
- 5. WILLIE PEP:** Pep fought 242 times and won 230 of those bouts. His art was in a ring artistry which verged on the balletic, and he once famously won a round without throwing a single punch. He was world featherweight champion from 1942 to 1950 and regained the title from his great rival Sandy Saddler in 1949.



NO 1: Muhammad Ali

- 6. HENRY ARMSTRONG:** ‘Homicide Hank’ was a kamikaze whirl of flying limbs, a brutal puncher with a granite chin to match. At one point in 1939 Armstrong held world titles at featherweight, lightweight and welterweight at the same time. He fought 151 times and stopped 101 of his victims.
- 7. SUGAR RAY LEONARD:** The golden boy of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, Leonard starred in boxing’s greatest modern era, his bouts with Roberto Duran, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns the stuff of legend. Leonard won five world titles at five different weights.
- 8. ARCHIE MOORE:** Moore’s career lasted for 27 years and he was 39 when he first won the world light-heavyweight title. He would reign for 10 years, and had two unsuccessful cracks at the world heavyweight title against Rocky Marciano and Floyd Patterson before losing to a young Cassius Clay in 1962, when his age hovered around 50.
- 9. BENNY LEONARD:** Arguably the best lightweight ever, Leonard reigned from 1917 to 1923. He fought 212 times and suffered only four knockout defeats.
- 10. JACK JOHNSON:** Boxing’s first black heavyweight champion, his seven-year reign from 1908 to 1915 was characterised by a vivid lifestyle and a hearty disdain for those who preached white supremacy. His wins sparked race riots across America and his legacy effectively shut out the hopes of other potential black heavyweight challengers for the next 20 years.

Tribute to Muhammad Ali, a man of great fights, great

THESE days the eyes of Muhammad Ali, once so sparkling and mischievous, are invariably hidden behind sunglasses.

The body, as he celebrated his 70th birthday earlier this week, is frail, the gait uncertain, a walking frame or the arm of an aide often required, *writes FRANK MALLEY.*

Yet more than 30 years since Ali hung up his gloves after losing his last fight against Trevor Berbick at the age of 39 years and 328 days, following a career forged amid a golden generation of boxing heavyweights, he remains the greatest sportsman who ever lived.

His name conjures up a kaleidoscope of memories.

Great fights such as ‘The Rumble in the Jungle’ against George Foreman and the ‘Thrilla in Manila’ against Joe Frazier, whose funeral Ali attended in November.

Moments of great courage, too, such as the lighting of the Olympic flame at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta when Ali, ravaged by the effects of the Parkinson’s disease he has endured for 28 years, gave the world’s greatest sporting festival an iconic image.

You do not have to be middle-aged to appreciate the breadth of Ali’s achievements.

You just have to take a passing interest in the history of sport and its ability to mould and shape the world around us.

Ali is not just a 70-year-old has-been. His career is a reminder of how far sport can take those determined to ride their natural gifts, in Ali’s case hand and foot speed which saw him win the Olympic heavyweight gold medal in Rome in 1960 before turning professional.

In a boxing world which currently lacks credibility, with its plethora of title organisations and its myriad of weight divisions, it is difficult to convey the kudos the world heavyweight title bestowed back in Ali’s day.

Suffice to say that he was, almost certainly, the most famous individual on the planet.

If his latter years had been kinder in health terms, no doubt he would stand up at his birthday party in his house in Paradise Valley, Arizona, with Lonnie, his childhood sweetheart and now fourth wife, and for old time’s sake launch into one of those eloquent examples of the ‘Louisville Lip’.

He’d enthral his friends with tales of Foreman and Frazier and Ernie Terrell and Jerry Quarry. He might explain how he managed to fight on to win by a split decision after breaking his jaw against Ken Norton.

Almost certainly he would wax lyrical about the night he fought what has been deemed the perfect fight against Cleveland Williams, stopping his opponent in the third round.

He might even mention the time he felt ‘Enery’s’ Ammer, the left hook of British heavyweight Henry Cooper, in front of 45,000 British fight fans on a night mired in controversy when the laces of his gloves inexplicably came undone gaining him vital seconds to recover from a crashing knockdown.

He’d reminisce about the days when reporters recorded every syllable of his pre-fight patter.

‘If you even dream of beating me you’d better wake up and apologise,’ he famously warned one opponent.

Instead, these days Ali lets the black-and-white TV pictures or the early-morning closed-circuit cinema showings of him at his precocious best do the talking.

Some say Joe Louis was the best heavyweight boxer the world has ever seen and perhaps technically he does just eclipse the boy who was born Cassius Marcellus Clay on January 17, 1942.

But in terms of greatness there is no contest. Ali transcended sport. He proved greatness is not solely to do with what happens inside the ring or on the athletic track or on the football field.

When he told us how he “roped a dope”

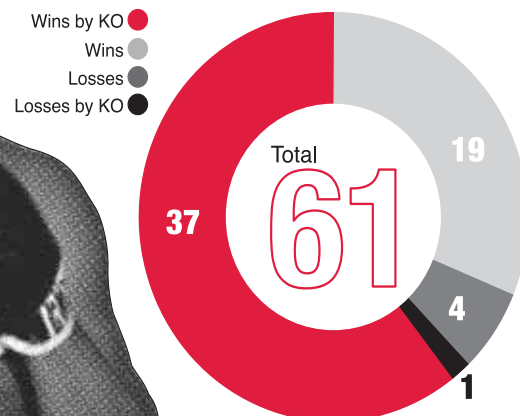
HEIGHT
6ft 3in

REACH
80in

Sources:
BoxRec, ali.com

Muhammad The Greatest Ali: boxing career

MUHAMMAD ALI'S CAREER STATS



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ALI CAREER TIMELINE



v Sonny Liston

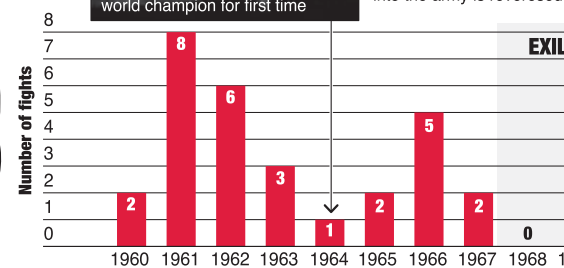
25/02/1964: Becomes
world champion for first time

Exile

1967: After refusing to be
the Vietnam War, Ali is stri
his title and would not be a
fight professionally for mor
three years

1970: Ali allowed to fight a

1971: Conviction of refusing
into the army is reversed



Our memories Greatest' never

in Foreman, we chuckled at his humour.

We marvelled at his eloquence when discussing the world’s problems with popes and presidents. We respected his objection to the Vietnam War which cost him three years of his career.

We were at first quizzical but then accepting of his conversion to Islam and his consequent change of name.

But mostly we were bedazzled by the lightning hands and feet of the fastest heavyweight in history as he saw off the likes of Sonny Liston, Foreman and Frazier.

In all he held the heavyweight title three times, winning 22 world title fights and losing three, including his ill-advised brutal encounter with former sparring partner Larry Holmes when he was in the midst of physical decline and sporting a bloated body and wandering mind.

Some would say that is nothing unique: Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis have also held the world title three times.

That, however, would be to miss the

unique energy and humility of Ali, a man whose boastful ‘I’m the king of the world’ catchphrases were always tinged with an endearing dash of self-mockery.

Only footballer Pele and golf’s Tiger Woods, prior to his self-destruction, come near to emulating Ali’s universal sporting appeal, men who when they play, hold the world in awe.

Some might say Carl Lewis, Jack Nicklaus, Don Bradman, Bjorn Borg and maybe even Babe Ruth, the greatest player in baseball history, deserve their place in that debate.

But, when all is duly considered, one man is way out in front. The man who ‘floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee’.

It is no longer possible to know what truly goes on behind those sunglasses.

But the memories remain. Muhammad Ali, still the greatest.

at courage and iconic images

WISITICS

WORLDWIDE HEAD

30 of those were defences

Named The Ring Fighter of the Year

1963
1972 1974
1975 1978



1964 Feb-1964 Sep: Stripped
1967 Feb-1967 May: Stripped
1974 Oct-1978 Feb:
Lost to Leon Spinks
1978 Sep-1979 Sep: Retired

KNOCKOUT PERCENTAGE

61%

Rounds boxed

549



1964 Feb-1970 Feb: Retired
1974 Oct-1978 Feb:
Lost to Leon Spinks



1964 Feb-1967 May: Stripped

AGAINST JOE FRAZIER

Smokin Joe Frazier
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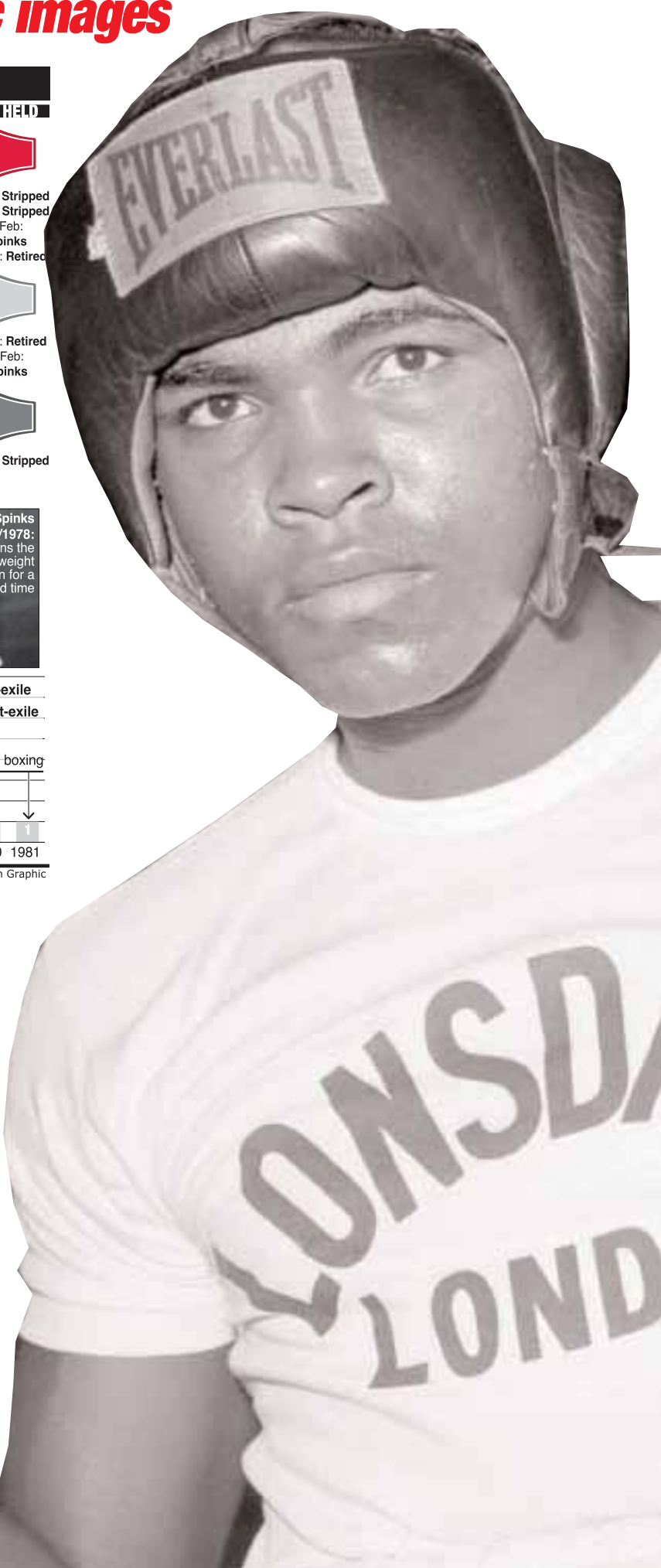
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THE GREATEST
SPORTSMAN OF
ALL TIME:
Muhammad Ali,
pictured way back
in 1963.



AS Muhammad Ali celebrated his 70th birthday this week, The Sports Pink recalls some of the Louisville Lip's more memorable quotes.

"...now Clay swings with a right, what a beautiful swing And raises the bear straight out of the ring;

Liston is rising and the ref wears a frown

For he can't start counting 'til Liston comes down;

Now Liston disappears from view, the crowd is getting frantic

But our radar stations have picked him up somewhere over the Atlantic;

Who would have thought when they came to the fight

That they'd witness the launching of a human satellite?

Yes the crowd did not dream when they laid down their money

That they would see a total eclipse of the Sonny."

(before first Sonny Liston fight, 1964)

"Cassius Clay is a slave name. I didn't choose it and I don't want it. I am Muhammad Ali, a free name - it means beloved of God, and I insist people use it when people speak to me and of me."

(announcing his conversion to the Muslim faith after first Liston fight)

"Get up sucker and fight. Get up and fight."

(during second Liston fight, 1965)

"What's my name, fool? What's my name?"

(during Ernie Terrell fight, 1967 - Terrell had refused to recognise his name change)

"I ain't got no quarrel with them Vietcong."

(on refusing induction into the US armed services in 1967 during the Vietnam war)

"I'm so fast that last night I turned off the light switch in my hotel room and got into bed before the room was dark."

(before George Foreman fight, 1974)

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee - his hands can't hit what his eyes can't see."

(before Foreman fight, 1974)

"I done wrestled with an alligator, I done tussled with a whale; Handcuffed lightning, thrown thunder in jail;

Only last week, I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalised a brick;

I'm so mean I make medicine sick."

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Veteran Southampton boxing trainer and manager Bishop on

AS he approaches his tenth decade, Jack Bishop is celebrating ten titles.

The elder statesman of British boxing has given a lifetime serving Queen and country and then Queensbury rules.

That's a feat which has been recognised by a prestigious award from the British Boxing Board of Control and even an invite to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

But for Bishop, a man who doesn't like fuss, pomp and ceremony, the titles his boxers have won mean more to him than anything.

Sammy Couzens' British Masters title victory at the back end of last year means Bishop has broken double figures for the number of belts that have returned with one of his fighters through the doors of his Southampton gym.

It's a phenomenal record, testament not only to his ability as a coach and his hard work and determination, but his dedication to the game as a manager and promoter as well.

Bishop is slightly reluctant to conduct this interview as he prefers to talk about his boxers than himself, even saying "I don't look at the past, I prefer the future."

But few would be able to argue his achievements don't deserve documenting for generations to come to see and take inspiration from.

"I was pretty proud of getting to double figures," said Bishop, who is approaching his 89th birthday.

"One of Jim Evans' trainers came across to my gym and said I'd had more champions than Jim.

"I think he has overtaken me now with a couple of Prizefighter winners – but I'm not sure if those count.

"I feel pretty good about it, especially the fact I've got two British title holders amongst them."

Bishop established himself on the south coast after leaving the forces and quickly gained a reputation for his ability to progress the careers of fighters, having had plenty of ring experience himself.

He landed his first champion back in 1976 when Jan Magdziarz bagged the Southern Area middleweight belt.

"Jan fought Shako Mamba and we had an amateur referee," recalled Bishop when asked for some of the most memorable nights he had spent in the corner.

"Jan had already been scared stiff because we flew over on a tiny plane sat right behind the captain. I was used to it, having flown to Europe in a Lysander several times during the war, but Jan certainly wasn't.

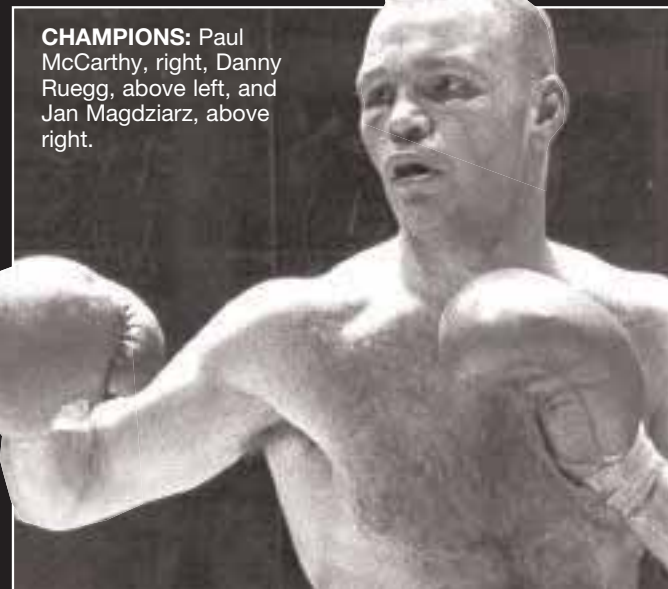
"When we got in to the fight Mamba hit Jan between the legs. It was a really low blow and Jan understandably went down and I realised the referee was counting him. I couldn't believe it.

"During the count Mamba stood behind the referee rather than in a neutral corner and, as soon as the count had finished, walked right past the referee and hit Jan with another low blow straight away.

"The referee counted again and I told Jan just to stay down and he got counted out.

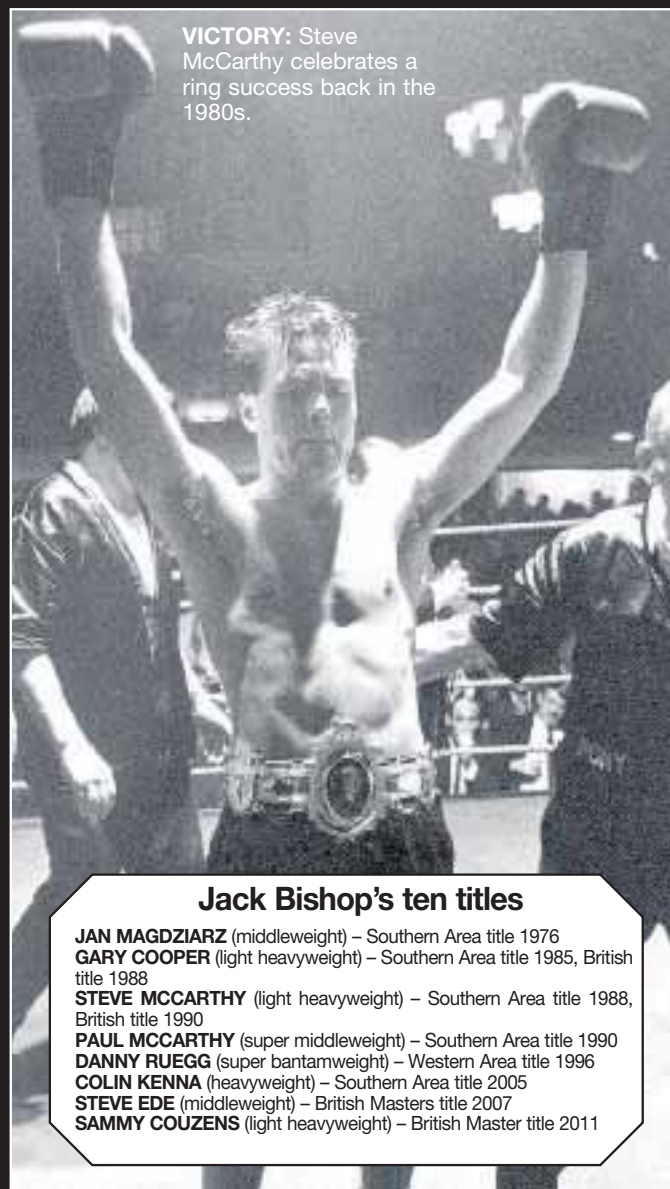
"I was furious and got in the ring and eventually we got dragged away and back to the dressing room.

"We got back and before I could even pick up the phone the board called to say they were protesting.



CHAMPIONS: Paul McCarthy, right, Danny Ruegg, below right, and Jan Magdziarz, above right.

VICTORY: Steve McCarthy celebrates a ring success back in the 1980s.



Jack Bishop's ten titles

JAN MAGDZIARZ (middleweight) – Southern Area title 1976
GARY COOPER (light heavyweight) – Southern Area title 1985, British title 1988
STEVE MCCARTHY (light heavyweight) – Southern Area title 1988, British title 1990
PAUL MCCARTHY (super middleweight) – Southern Area title 1990
DANNY RUEGG (super bantamweight) – Western Area title 1996
COLIN KENNA (heavyweight) – Southern Area title 2005
STEVE EDE (middleweight) – British Masters title 2007
SAMMY COUZENS (light heavyweight) – British Master title 2011

Perfect 10, but still

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



"We duly got a rematch and travelled again. Jan said to me he didn't want to just knock Mamba down, he wanted to get him. That was quite something coming from Jan, who was a very modest man.

"He went over there and did exactly what he said he would.

"He got Mamba into the corner and pummelled him. He just wouldn't let him go down and kept going until the referee stepped in and said 'that's enough.'"

After that came Gary Cooper, who won not only a Southern Area light

heavyweight title but also became British champion in 1988 at a time when few of the peripheral belts in boxing existed.

"I've got to say that Gary Cooper was the best boy I ever managed," reflected Bishop, below right, praise indeed given he loves nearly all of them like sons.

"He was no trouble at all, always polite, respectful, always listened, worked hard and did what you said."

Perhaps the fighter that lives longest in the public memory is **Steve McCarthy** who, like

Cooper, bagged Southern Area and British light heavyweight titles.

But the reason his legend lives on is one fight in particular, a favourite of pub quiz trivia and what happened next rounds, against Tony Wilson at Southampton Guildhall in 1989.

McCarthy was on course for victory when Wilson's mum entered the ring and hit McCarthy over the head with her stiletto. Amazingly, McCarthy, blood pouring from his head, ended up being declared the loser after leaving the ring following that incident

and Bishop paid an even heavier price.

"I got stabbed that night," he said, totally matter of fact. "I was walking back to the dressing room and all hell was breaking loose.

"I put my arm up in the air because I thought somebody was going to punch me and when I got back there I realised my arm was bleeding and I had been stabbed.

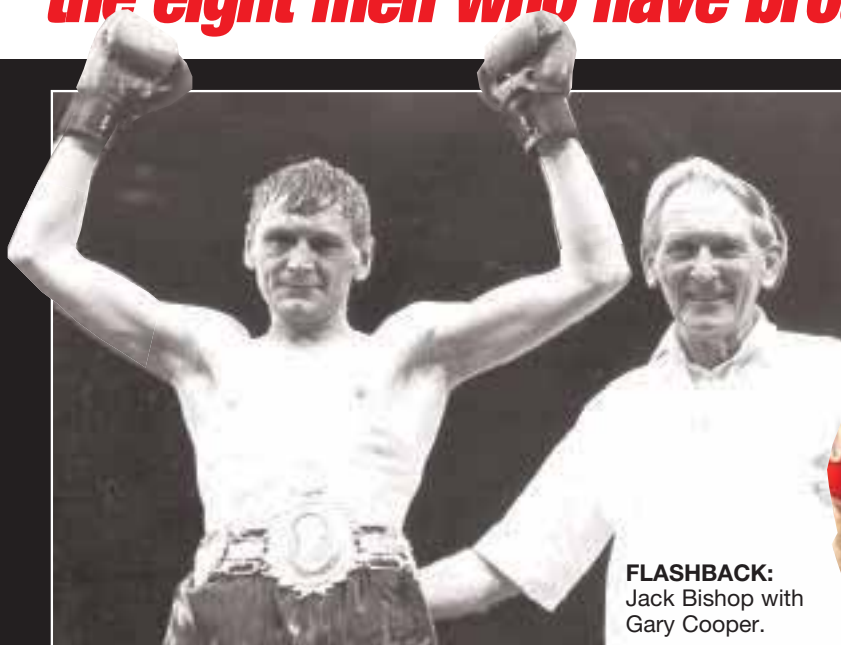
"The night was incredible. Steve Holdsworth, who commentates for Eurosport, was there recording it and afterwards asked for the nearest TV studios.

"I told him to take it back to London because he'd get more money, but he was determined and of course it became huge news.



GOT A BOXING STORY FOR US? - EMAIL adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

the eight men who have brought title belts back to his gym



FLASHBACK:
Jack Bishop with
Gary Cooper.



STEVE EDE



**COLIN
KENNA**



**SAMMY
COUZENS**

Jack wants more!

"He also did me a copy of the tape and at about 1am I had a call from a TV station in Bermuda offering me £1,000 for my copy.

"I turned it down.

"Likewise, after the event Steve had a lot of interest and I had to tell him to stop talking to the *Express* in his front room because they hadn't offered to pay him.

"In the end I got him quite a bit of cash off *The Sun* for his story – that's part of being a manager.

"I still regret what happened that night because Steve ended up losing the fight.

"After he was hit and was bleeding, the referee and the board didn't have a clue what to do.

"Steve wanted to get out the ring

but I was telling him not to go anywhere and to stay put.

"Eventually he pushed my arm away and climbed out the ring.

"It was manna from heaven for the board because he climbed out and so they could award a result, as you lose the fight if you do that.

"What were they going to do if he stayed in there?"

Steve's brother, Paul – the current Winchester City FC owner – bagged the Southern Area middleweight title before Danny Ruegg picked up a super bantamweight belt in 1996.

"Danny Ruegg was quite an achievement," said Bishop.

"When he came to me he'd never been in a ring in his life. His first proper time in the ring was for a

professional fight.

"Danny went in there and fought – and he knocked seven bells out of the other guy. You realised you had somebody who might do something and we went on to get him an area title."

It was to be another nine years before Bishop had another champion walking back through the doors of his gym at Captain's Place.

That man was heavyweight Colin Kenna, to whom Bishop remains immensely fond, before Steve Ede and now Couzens brought the tally up to ten.

If anybody should know the secret of producing a champion, then it's Bishop. "I don't think there's any secret," he said in his typically

modest and understated manner.

"A lot of people try to make out it's brain surgery or something. I recently had a trainer walk out on me because I was critical of him making it too technical.

"I said I'd pay him £1,000 for every different punch he could name once we got beyond five.

"It's a simple thing, boxing – it requires guts, courage, a good chin, a good defence, which is sometimes ignored these days, and the ability to punch.

"The real secret, if there is any, is getting to know the boxers.

"In the corner there are some fighters you can bully into doing what you want and some who need coaxing into it.

"It's understanding them, and also not throwing them in with somebody they don't stand a chance with, but having the courage to produce some even matches to progress them."

What speaks volumes for Bishop's management of his boxers is how fond they are of him, as well as him of them.

"Paul McCarthy I never thought would win a title. It was a case of persevering with him, but we got there in the end," he smiled.

"He came in the gym about a month ago and threw his arms around me and kissed me.

"Most of the boys didn't know who he was or what he was up to, but he turned into a good boxer and it was nice he remembered me and came by. That sort of thing means a lot.

"When I was unwell not long ago Gary Cooper's brother, Charlie, who also fought for me, called me out of the blue.

"I hadn't spoken to him in years but he had somehow heard I was unwell. He has done well for himself and he just called and said 'Jack, get whatever treatment you need. It doesn't matter what it costs, get it done and get them to send the bill to me and I'll pay the lot.'

"I was staggered.

"I got better and didn't need the help and I haven't heard from him since, but it was such an amazing gesture and so nice that people remember the effort that you put in to help them."

Bishop has not only helped many fighters to achieve their potential, even though for many that was never going to be winning titles, but more than that kept the professional game alive in Southampton for decades.

He has suffered from ill health recently and has become frustrated at some of the more recent developments in the game, such as the rise of white collar boxing which he fears could end in somebody dying as well as total mismatches to build up the records of some fighters.

Bishop is from an era where that sort of thing is not considered correct and acceptable.

And, whilst he acknowledges times do change, the financial constraints such things have placed upon staging small hall shows means he potentially will never promote another show himself again.

But don't make the mistake of thinking that's it for Bishop.

A man with war stories one can only imagine has come through much worse.

Typical of Bishop is his enthusiasm for talking about the latest fight involving one of his boxers, a German contest for Couzens who lost in a blaze of glory.

He's definitely not done yet.

"I'm almost 89 so it's not easy going across to the gym four times a week, but this is the job I chose to do and the responsibility I have so I go across there and make sure they are doing it the way I want it done," he insisted.

"I had a lot of fights myself so I know what they're going through.

"I know what their minds are telling them and that means I can get through it with them.

"I often joke I'm not really a trainer, I'm a psychologist.

"I'm not finished yet. I think there's more to come. I want more than ten – I'm a greedy bugger like that."

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Non-league Football

Bransgore shake off fears of drop

HAYWARD SATURDAY LEAGUE

ALEC PAYNE and Blake Vincent both bagged hat-tricks when relegation threatened Bransgore United took DIVISION FIVE pacesetters Screw-It Carpentry apart in an amazing 8-1 triumph with Sean Barton and Jem Page adding one each.

Bournemouth Electric hold on to second place in the PREMIER DIVISION after Leigh Phillips steered their makeshift side to a 1-0 win over Allendale.

Portcristian are two points behind with three games in hand after Pepe Smith and Robbie Woolner accounted for Trinidad 2-0 while Sway were held 1-1 by Old Oakmeadians.

Dan Thorogood was the Sway scorer with Peter Pritchard replying for Old Oaks.

Ryan Moir, Stuart Ogilvie and Tom Cranmer netted for Alderholt but their DIVISION ONE promotion hopes were dented when they went down 4-3 to goals from Nat Tramontini (2), Oliver Bolton and Ashley Hoff against Ferndown Sports.

FC Bournemouth led 3-1 through Paul Conroy, Craig Leverton and Dan Taylor with just 15 minutes left but Bournemouth Electric Reserves salvaged a 3-3 draw thanks to Dan Baguley (2) and Steve Blyth.

DIVISION TWO pacesetters Westover Bournemouth Reserves crashed to a second successive defeat and this time it was bottom placed Seyward Windows surprising them 2-0 with goals from Jack O'Hara and Simon Dunn.

New Milton Linnets are just a point behind with two games in hand after Joel Fields (2), Nick Broom and Billy Hancock ensured a 4-0 victory over Sway Reserves while Queens Park Athletic gave St Mary's a 5-1 drubbing courtesy of Mark McCarthy's hat-trick and further goals from Luke Powell and Paul Lane.

Sam Hills and Tom Faulkner netted for Bisterne Rangers but

their hopes of going top of DIVISION THREE were dashed when Mike Cobb and Ritchie Whiting earned tailenders Old Oakmeadians Reserves an unexpected 2-2 draw.

Alan O'Grady struck for Parley Sports A but they are replaced in third position by Redlynch & Woodfalls United Reserves who upended them 3-1 with goals from Nick Scott (2) and Ben Britnell.

Mudeford Men's Club Reserves gave FC Athletic the treatment 7-2 courtesy of Mark Taylor's hat-trick and further goals from Max Edgell (2), Jason Gibson and Peter Thorne while AFC Burton spanked Redhill Rangers thanks to Dave Horgan, Chris Stubbs, Gary Bennett and a Mark Brading hat-trick.

Adam Parker, Jeff Lewis and Sam Quinn (pen) netted for AFC Bransgore who hold top spot in DIVISION FOUR despite being held to a 3-3 draw by Ferndown Sports Reserves.

Tom Eastwood (2) and Peter Hunt struck for BU Staff but their perfect record was ruined when Burley shaded it 4-3 thanks to Nick Russon and a Phil Matthews hat-trick.

Ollie Lechoomun rattled in four when New Milton Eagles crushed Milford 11-1 with Shahed Miah (2), Shaun Miller (2), Jon Spooner, Shane Waterman and Ricky Parsons also on target.

Unbeaten A & T Athletic remain two points clear at the top of DIVISION SIX after Anthony Winders and Jamie Tuvey gave them the edge 2-1 against Ringwood Athletic.

Nearest rivals Ferndown Town Greenfields Reserves were 3-1 winners against Redhill Rangers Reserves through Jai Garbutt, Kieron Arif and Ameer Raoof but Lower Parkstone CFC took a 5-1 tumble when West Howe hit them with a Dan Shearing hat-trick and a couple of goals from Aidan Goodenough.

Leaders held by promotion rivals

MIKE Barber and Ben Sullivan struck for DIVISION THREE leaders Queens Park Rovers Reserves but they had to settle for a point when Simon Ward and Ali Carmichael earned promotion rivals Ferndown Locomotive a 2-2 draw.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, Poole Wanderers were emphatic 7-0 winners in their relegation battle with Three Cross thanks to Phil Stevens, Jamie Legg, Ellis Greenslade and Tom Middleton's four-goal blast while bottom placed Boscombe Celtic did well to draw 1-1 with AFC Burns Lettings. Carlos Costa was the Celtic marksman while goalkeeper Sean Brennan distinguished himself by saving his third penalty in as many matches.

Queens Park opened up a five point lead at the top of the PREMIER LEAGUE after Martin Da Silva (2), Steve Flynn and James Tunncliffe gave them the upper hand 4-2 against Queens Park Rovers while Branksome Railway move up to third place after upending West Moors SSC 3-1 with goals from Alex Grimason (2) and Sam Purdy.

Foresters Arms boosted their DIVISION ONE promotion hopes when they tanned Bluewood Athletic 5-1 with goals from William Stride (2), Tom Burgess, Alex Davis and Tom Brown while Jack Swann and Toby Holmes bagged two each in Parley Sports' 4-2 win over Harry's Bar.

New Star United played over an hour of their game with Kavell with nine men after having two sent off but still managed to force a 5-5 draw thanks to Chris Foster, Adam Nash, Jack Holland, Joe Singer and Andy Birch. Kavell's goals came via Paul Cavendish (2) and a Mark Henson hat-trick.

Tailenders Tavla Spor doubled their points total when Mehmet Hatipoglu earned them a 1-1 draw with Bournemouth Athletic who replied through Andy Wright.

Creekmoor Lions are two points off the top of DIVISION TWO with a game in hand after Ryan Moore gave them the edge 2-1 against Fernside Sports while Vienna Windows recorded their fifth successive victory when Stuart Marshall (2), Jason Cliffe, Charles Spencer and Rob Walter ensured a 5-0 tri-

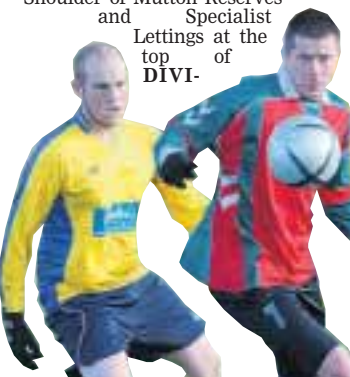
THIS WAY OR THAT:
ECP v Bransgore (yellow)
in Division 8.



HAYWARD SUNDAY LEAGUE

umph over AFC Burton.

Only goal difference separates Shoulder of Mutton Reserves and Specialist Lettings at the top of DIVI-



SION FOUR after they won their games 1-0 against Carling Sports and Boscombe Celtic respectively.

Terry Foote was the SoM scorer while Lee Pearson secured all three points for Lettings.

Barton Wanderers are also unbeaten and Shaun Waterman and Will Ireland both plundered hat-tricks when they crushed Witthampton 10-0 with Shahed Miah (2), Ollie Luchoomun and Lee Gilbert also on target.

Victoria Park

CLOSE MARKING:
ECP v Bransgore
(yellow) in Division 8.

Royals took a three-goal lead thanks to Mike Kitson (2) and Kieron Goldrick but Rockbourne came back through Nick Scott and Jason Thorne and they went top of DIVISION FIVE when Scott struck again in the last minute to force a 3-3 draw.

Magpies also staged an excellent recovery when, after being 3-1 down at half time, they emerged 4-3 winners against Alderney Manor thanks to Joe Marsh, Mark Parkinson, James Carter and Jon Bain.

Peter Richmond-Cole was the four-goal star of AFC Stourvale's 6-3 success against Strouden

Sports with the other two goals coming from Ali Garard.

Kavell Reserves stay in touch with the leading pair in DIVISION SIX after subduing AFC Burton Reserves 2-0 with goals from Gary Armstrong and Paul Rideout while Townsend Spartans move up to fourth place after ambushing Poole Bay Estates 10-3. Parris Simpkins, Charlie Foreman, and Anthony Cappelanga all bagged hat-tricks for Townsend, the other goal coming from Luke Brown.

Newtown Rovers are the new leaders of DIVISION SEVEN after their 9-2 trouncing of Intellihouse through Josh Harper (2), Ricky Powell (2),

Jody Hayman and Mark Frigot's four-goal blitz while Carl Fleet scored all three goals in Ensburry Park Rangers' 4-1 victory over Richmond Park Rangers.

Winkton Autos led with a first-half goal from Mark McAdam but Cranborne came back after the break through Nick Beattie to force a 1-1 draw to go one point clear in DIVISION EIGHT.

Mount have the leaders in their sights after their 3-1 success against Horse & Jockey thanks to Rich Case (2) and Mike Hawes and Kinson Con remain in contention after Shane Varley (2), Karl Wicks and Jason Thomas accounted for Carling Sports Reserves 4-1.

Scott V hold top spot in DIVISION NINE on goal difference after brushing Kings Arms Athletic aside 5-1 with goals from Glenn Taylor (2), Tom Milne, Kieran Davies and Tom Beaumont while nearest rivals Throop United beat Talbot Rangers 3-1 thanks to Adam Louka (2) and Lee Philipps.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S RESULTS

Non-league Football



HOLDERS Nursling fell at the quarter final stage of the Vets League Cup (Eastleigh RA) after Sholing won 4-3 on pens after a 1-1 draw. Poor old Paul Joyce missed a penalty in the 90 minutes and compounded it by repeating his miss in the shootout. Two each from Ben Goodridge and Paul

Veterans Cup holders get shot down

Williams helped Sporting BTC to a 5-1 defeat of Langley Tavern.

Colden Common repeated victory over Hedge End Rangers, this time 2-0 (Ian Nash and Trevor Targett). Colden now face

Sporting BTC, with Sholing and Locksheath meeting in the other semi.

The Vets Supp Cup got under way with Mich & Tims thumping Langley Manor B 5-0, Winchester OB also hit five against Langley

Tavern B, who replied with two. Baddesley won 2-1 at Redbridge OB while Priory went out on penalties against Royal Mail after a 1-1 draw.

Questmap dropped their first league points held 2-2 by GE Aviation.

OTs and Redlynch & W also drew two each.

B division favourites RS Winchester won 7-1 at rivals Hythe Aztecs, James Wilson scored four and Mark Green three, while Locks Heath made up ground with a 6-0 defeat of

Northend.

Bishop's Waltham still top the pile after a 6-3 victory over Langley Manor.

Compton and Stoneham eased relegation fears with wins over the bottom pair. In the C section, GE Aviation B defeated rivals Sholing B 3-1 to keep the pressure on Sporting B.

Division 1 sides are on form in the cup

THE Senior League Division 1 provided three of the league cup's semi-finalists after last weekend's round of matches.

Lyndhurst twice came back from a goal down to win 3-2 after extra time against Comrades, with their goals coming from Wade Wilson, Ash Baddams and the winner from Brett Wheeler.

Their reward is a semi against Thornhill HK, who defeated cup holders Netley CS 3-1 as Billy Cozens, Lee Osborne and Jason Gibb shared the honours.

Bush Hill, who qualified before Christmas, will face Cadnam United, who tamed White Horse 4-0 with Tom Glasspool netting three.

Bush Hill are enough to strike fear into any team at the best of times but to face them with seven men is admirable.

In league action seven man Cutbush Athletic lost 18-1 to Bush Hill but gallantly battled on to the end.

Paul Boucher netted eight goals and Paul Wiltshire five.

Nursling and Soton University shared four goals equally allowing Forest Town, 2-1 winners at Bishopstoke WMC, to go second.

AFC Hiltigbury won their relegation dogfight with BTC 2-1.

In Senior 1 the big guns were in cup action except Hythe Aztecs, who made hay and won 4-0 against Comrades Res (Pete Burgess with a brace).

Sam Schwodler also hit two as Burrigge AFC won their derby at Durlley Res 4-2.

BTC Reserves' improvement continued with a 1-1 draw with Hedge End Tn.

Park let lead slip

JUNIOR League top flight title challengers Park Sports let slip a 3-1 lead to draw 3-3 with Compton and Nick Kellaway hit a hat-trick as Soton Energy out-did Veracity Vipers 5-2.

Junior 4 leaders West Totton crushed Good Companions 6-1 as John Dunn did it again with a treble.

Fellow hopefuls Chandler's Ford slipped up 3-1 at Botley Village Res (Kurt Brisley 2). Bitterne Park Hotel took over Junior 5 leadership after a 3-1 defeat of Upham Res but Stanton remain in the chase after a 6-3 defeat of London Air Res.

Riverside and Welly set for final repeat

SOUTHAMPTON FA CUPS ROUND-UP BY ROD SUTHERLAND

THE final of the Southampton Divisional Junior A Cup will be a re-run of last season's Junior B event after both FC Wellington and Riverside won through tough encounters at Hunts Farm last weekend.

Jordan Amos was once again the solitary goal scorer as Wellington defeated fellow Junior 3 Forest Town Res.

Meanwhile, Riverside found themselves two down again Junior 2 Questmap before a penalty converted by Matt Austin reduced the arrears.

Scott Cozens, Craig Phillips and Dan Burgess put Riverside 4-3 up before Riverside keeper Ian Churchill saved a penalty five minutes from time and Questmap even had a goal disallowed.

Elsewhere, AFC Gulf Western's County Cup interest resulted in the cruellest of exits as they went out on penalties after a goalless draw after extra time at Horndean Hawks.

But they have another opportunity to reach a cup final this weekend as they take on West Totton in the SDFA B Cup semi-finals, which involve all the top four from Junior 4 as Chandler's Ford and Harefield face off in the other semi.

Harefield are also still involved in the Junior League Cup after overcoming a different Chandler's Ford (Junior 3 Rangers) 4-1 with Zac Glasspool grabbing a hat-trick.

They are joined in the league cup semi's by Wombles, who had a 2-1 extra time victory over Junior 1 rivals South City courtesy of Justin Kernick and Tom Smith.

Harefield will face Riverside in one semi with Wombles taking on



FC WELLINGTON: Back (left to right): Pete MacCallum (manager), John Durman, Nick Skolsky, Dave Vella, Mark Delves, Dave Swan, Barry Fitzgerald, Trev Rogers (captain), Ian Palmer
Front: Brenda Rankin, Jordan Amos, Jamie Mogridge (player manager), Nate John, Joe Fox, Will Chick, Steve Porter.



QUESTMAP FC: Back (left to right): Peter Philpott, Lewis Smith, Adam Thorne, Peter McColm, Patrick Goode, Kevin Hayter (captain), Nicky Woodgate, Alfie Harland (asst manager). Front: Shaun Davey (manager), Mike Bessant, Ben Adams, Adam Lea, Gary Davey, Mark Budd.

either AFC Gulf Western or Park Sports, who will meet in a couple of weeks' time.

The Supplementary Cups got well and truly under way, with Ben Hatcher of Bricklayers unfortunate

to be on the losing side despite netting a hat-trick.

Opponents Chamberlayne took the tie 5-4 (aet), with Louis LeMesurier grabbing a brace.

Equally tight was Infinity

Reserves' 4-3 win over Junior 2 leaders Q K Soton A.

Langley Manor needed extra time to defeat Hamble Utd 3-1, Warsash Wasps stung Inmar 3-1 with Andy Valente at the double and Mark Bessant and Liam Aspinall hit a pair apiece as Braishfield ran out 6-2 winners at Cricketers Eastleigh.

Capital edged AFC Gordons 2-1, while the biggest scorers were Solent Saints who thumped Wellow 9-0 as Tam Goodrich hit three.

AFC Grains were first through to the third round after a 5-3 defeat of Compton Res with Jamie Blyth on three.

Round 2: AFC Grains 5 Compton Res 3, Braishfield v Chamberlayne, Forest Town Res v FC Wellington, Hedge End Rangers Res or Otterbourne A v Warsash Wasps, Questmap v Langley Manor, Solent Saints v Compton, Soton Energy v Infinity Res, Veracity v Capital.

The Vase saw both New Forest sides through, with the first team 5-1 winners at Cricketers Fair Oak while their reserves won 5-2 at Athletico Romsey, Gary Stoner hitting four in the process.

Amphill Athletic stunned Freemantle 7-4 with Dan Davies hitting a nap hand.

Coxford Jets were also amongst the goals hitting eight past Mich & Tims A.

Jimmy Greenough hit four as S G Sports won 6-0 at AFC Soton and Botley Village A beat local and divisional rivals Horton Heath 3-2.

Priory Rovers edged Brigadier Gerard 2-1, while Riverside Res avenged the previous week's 4-0 mauling at the hands of Hamble Utd Res in the league by inflicting a 3-1 cup defeat on the same side.

Mike King and Chris Eager saw AFC Station to a 2-1 win at Burrigge Village and Ben Musselwhite was Braishfield Reserves' hat-trick hero in their 5-3 extra time win against Sporting Wessex.

Round 2: AFC Station v Bitterne Pk Hotel, Braishfield Res v Botley Village A, Chandler's Ford v Good Companions, Coxford Jets v New Forest, Priory Rovers v West Totton, Riverside Res v Amphill Ath, S G Sports v New Forest Res, Upham Res or Botley Village Res v Stanton.

Non-league Football

STANDINGS

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brookhill Saints	10	8	0	2	44	15	24
Knighton Arms	6	6	0	0	54	1	18
Avenue	9	5	1	3	31	22	16
Totton Town	8	4	0	4	19	26	12
City Central	9	3	1	5	36	28	10
Bedes Lea 97	9	1	0	8	8	77	3
Old Mill	5	0	0	5	5	28	0

Senior	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bursledon Towers	10	8	1	1	27	17	25
Sholing Celtic	10	4	1	5	28	24	13
Westwood Old Boys	8	4	0	4	21	16	12
Totton Cosmos	8	4	0	4	14	17	12
Horns Inn	7	3	2	2	12	7	11
KRL	7	3	1	3	14	12	10
Chamberlayne Athletic	7	3	1	3	20	19	10
Eastbrook Harriers	11	1	2	8	12	36	5

Junior 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Riverside Magic	10	9	0	1	46	10	27
Linden Tree	9	7	0	2	41	15	21
Winston Hotel	8	6	1	1	43	18	19
Anchor Redbridge	11	4	3	4	22	29	15
Castle Inn	12	4	2	6	33	33	14
Echo	11	3	3	5	23	38	12
Revolution	10	2	1	7	24	45	7
Hedge End Club	10	1	2	7	13	42	5
Botley	3	0	0	3	7	22	0

Junior 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Salt	12	10	0	1	43	19	31
Athletico HC	13	8	1	4	60	33	25
Old House at Home	12	7	2	3	46	25	23
Brookhill Saints Res	7	7	0	0	34	14	21
Ice House NH	10	6	0	4	45	20	18
Sports Mania	10	5	0	5	34	34	15
Itchen Manor	12	4	0	8	32	38	12
FC Railway	11	3	2	6	35	31	11
Carnival UK	12	2	0	10	16	69	6
Woodman	11	0	0	11	13	75	0

Junior 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Bursledon	12	8	2	2	39	22	26
Sherfield English	12	8	1	3	53	21	25
Cherbourg	9	6	2	1	40	19	20
Chartwell Green	7	6	1	0	28	11	19
Bridge AFC	7	5	1	1	44	17	16
LH Galaxy	11	3	2	6	14	25	11
AFC Riverside	10	1	2	7	19	32	5
Regents Park	12	1	2	9	17	56	5
AFC Marchwood	10	0	1	9	9	60	1

Junior 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton Bhoy's	10	8	0	2	29	7	24
Woodmill	11	8	1	2	39	17	22
Newtown Athletic	7	6	1	0	38	7	19
Bishops Blaize	7	4	2	1	36	10	14
Eastpoint	10	4	2	4	18	23	14
Chamberlayne Ath Res	10	3	3	4	18	24	12
Royale Marine	7	2	3	2	14	14	9
Itchen Manor Res	8	1	1	6	9	32	7
Obelisk	9	1	0	8	10	51	3
Burridge AFC	9	0	1	8	7	35	1

Junior 5							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting View	9	8	1	0	46	11	25
Portswood United	12	7	1	4	42	27	22
Sporting Compass	10	6	1	3	23	22	19
Sherfield English Res	12	5	1	6	48	42	16
Durley	11	4	4	3	26	25	16
AV Chivas	11	4	3	4	26	31	15
HSC Southern Stars	10	4	1	5	24	32	13
AFC Bishopstoke	10	2	1	7	31	29	7
Eastleigh Irish	9	0	1	8	18	65	1
Junior 6							

Junior 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Southampton	11	10	1	0	60	21	31
Hythe & Dibden Sunday	12	10	0	2	50	27	30
RS Ocean Village	8	7	0	1	42	14	21
Ampfield	11	6	0	5	42	35	18
Marchwood	12	4	1	7	35	43	13
Botley Babes	12	3	1	8	34	58	10
Unity	11	3	0	8	25	54	9
Test Valley Spartans	12	2	2	8	21	46	8
Sporting Compass Res	11	2	1	8	26	37	7

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT SUNDAY LEAGUE

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lord Nelson	8	6	0	2	46	21	18
Hamble Club	8	5	0	3	41	33	15
AFC Allbrook	7	4	0	3	29	21	12
Foresters AFC	7	4	0	3	20	19	12
Otter	8	0	0	8	5	47	0

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CS FC	7	7	0	0	69	6	21
Roll Call	7	6	0	1	33	7	18
West End FC	10	4	1	5	27	40	13
Landguard Rovers	8	4	0	4	29	22	12
Trants	9	3	1	5	25	44	10
AFC Portswood	9	0	0	9	13	77	0

Division 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roll Call Reserves	9	5	2	2	29	19	17
Prestige South	10	4	3	3	24	30	15
AFC Toynbee	8	5	0	1	25	10	12
AFC Anchor	8	3	3	2	15	12	12
Holbury Union	9	2	3	4	25	33	9
Fair Oak Albion	9	2	3	4	22	24	9
C & G	8	2	0	6	20	32	6

Division 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lapstone	7	4	1	2	23	19	13
Coopervision	8	3	3	2	28	26	12
Holf Sports	8	2	3	3	17	25	11
Kingsgate	7	3	1	3	17	25	10
Halfway United	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
King George	6	1	2	3	11	13	5

City of Southampton Sunday League

KNIGHTON Arms maintained their 100 per cent Premier Division record with a 4-0 win against third-placed Avenue.

Four different goalscorers – Luke Watts, Simon Quirk, Abdul Otono and Luke Cutler – ensured a comfortable win, **writes SIMON WALTER.**

They have four games in hand on Brookhill Saints, who maintained their six-point lead at the top with a 5-1 win against City Central thanks to two goals apiece for Nick Craig and Paul Wiltshire.

Senior Division leaders Bursledon Towers were held to a 2-2 draw by bottom-of-the-table Eastbrook Harriers.

Harriers led at the break through Dean Broderick but Jamie Cliff and Ryan Glasspool secured Bursledon's first draw of the season.

Westwood Old Boys' Shane Collins scored FOUR in his side's 5-1 win against Totton Cosmos.

Riverside Magic made it nine wins out of ten at the top of Junior 1 with a 6-0 win against Echo.

Matt Coulthard scored twice, including the only goal of the first half. But Linden Tree are still six points behind with a game in hand thanks to a big win of their own – 7-2 against Anchor Redbridge.

Alwyn Short and Luke Willis both scored twice, while Anchor's Adam Hague netted a couple of consolation goals in the second half.

Winston Hotel are still on Linden's coat-tails after their 4-2 win against Castle Inn, thanks to a goal in each half from Ross Jones.

The bottom-of-the table clash between Hedge End Club and Revolution finished as a goalless stalemate.

A bad week for Carnival UK extended to the football pitch. They lost 8-0 in Junior Two against Athletico HC, for whom Ollie Davidson bagged a hat-trick.

Pile of goals

But FC Salt maintained their lead over Athletico at the top, with James Langer netting a hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Itchen Manor. But Old House at Home enjoyed the biggest win of the week thanks to an incredible display from Matt Pile, who scored SEVEN in a 9-1 win against rock-bottom Woodman.

Sam Nutbeem scored a hat-trick as AFC Bursledon replaced Sherfield English at the top of Junior 3 with a 5-1 win against Regents Park.

Cherbourg remain in striking distance of the leaders after Ben Johnson scored twice in a 4-0 win against LH Galaxy. But the game of the day was the mid-table clash between Bridge AFC and Chartwell Green, who came out on top in a seven-goal thriller with Pete Roshier scoring twice in the 4-3 win.

Lowly AFC Marchwood failed to close the gap

Nelson meet their Waterloo

DIVISION 1 leaders Lord Nelson suffered a shock defeat against Foresters AFC.

Matt Cotton ensured Foresters led at the break and scored twice as they completed a 3-2 win.

CS FC battered AFC Portwood 17-1 in the second division's top versus bottom clash. Sam Floyd hit SIX and Martyn Randall bagged four as both sides maintained their 100 per cent records!

Roll Call remain within three points of the leaders after winning 4-2 against West End FC thanks to goals from Jordan Gallagher, Alan

Southampton & District Sunday League

Hitchcock, Adam Lea and Mark Williams.

Prestige South were held to a 1-1 draw by AFC Anchor in Division 3.

And in Division 4, Dave North hit a hat-trick as bottom-placed King George won their first game of the season. Hoff Sports lost the seven-goal thriller 4-3, despite leading 2-0 at the break – thanks to an own goal.



ON TARGET: Knighton Arms' Abdul Otono, left.

KNIGHTON'S AWESOME FOURSOME

at the bottom after crashing to a 5-1 defeat against AFC Riverside (Sunday), for whom Ben Johnson scored twice.

Royale Marine pulled off a shock 1-0 win against leaders Southampton Buoys. Matt Cotton scored the only goal of the game in the first half as John May's side registered a memo-

rable second win of the season.

Eastpoint's Kenneth Hamilton scored a second-half equaliser to rescue a point against fellow mid-tableers Chamberlayne Athletic reserves.

Third-placed Sporting Compass scored a goal in each half through Stuart McCloskey and James Sloan as they closed the gap on second-placed Portswood United with a 2-0 win in Junior Five.

Hythe & Dibden Sunday closed the gap on Junior Six leaders AFC Southampton, who were in cup action, with a 5-0 win against Test Valley Spartans, thanks to a Jake Voller hat-trick and two goals for Mike Pack.

RS Ocean Village are not far behind after beating Botley Babes 5-1, Ben Dawkins and Eero Mannikko both scoring twice. Ampfield's Nathan Grey scored FOUR first-half goals in a 6-2 win over Unity, for whom Clint Norris and Shazar Rahman scored the only goals of the second-half.

Wing sends Sporting soaring

CUP ROUND-UP

LIAM Wing scored twice as City of Southampton Sunday League side Sporting View reached the fifth round of the Junior C Cup, with a 4-2 win against Cove U21.

The Charlie Godden Trophy semi-finalists all enjoyed comfortable wins in the last eight.

Adam Godling scored the only quarter-final hat-trick as Sherfield English Reserves beat Burridge AFC 6-0, with Joe Cook grabbing two.

Bishops Blaize overcame Obelisk 7-1 with SIX different goalscorers, Lee Childs grabbing the only brace. Woodmill won 5-1 against Itchen Manor Reserves with Jack Jewell scoring twice.

Newtown Athletic's Pawel Burzdy scored twice in his side's 5-2 demolition of AFC Southampton, who scored both their goals in the second half through Darren Bundy and Dean Whinnall.

AFC Toynbee progressed to the second round of the Southampton & District Junior Trophy, with five second-half goals against Roll Call Reserves, who were level at the break thanks to an Ian Jones penalty.

But Craig Davis and Steve Knight both completed a comfortable win for Toynbee in the second half, finishing with two goals apiece.

■ MEON VALLEY LGE

Shock loss for leaders

DIVISION 4 leaders Hordean United suffered their first defeat of the season, as they were beaten 2-1 by fellow high-flyers Hordean XI Reserves.

Paul Colmer's effort wasn't enough for the previously unbeaten outfit, as their opponents closed the gap on them at the top.

Elsewhere in the fourth tier, AFC Portchester demolished ten-man Purbrook 5-0 in the battle at the bottom.

After Ali McNiff was sent off for the visitors, the hosts romped to a five-goal success thanks to strikes from Sam Gisbourne (2), Steve Hughes, Ryan Woods and Charlie Stiles.

Waterlooville Social Club Reserves also enjoyed success, strikes from Adam Fisher and David Silvester, plus an own goal, helping them to beat Mead End 3-2.

In Division 3, Travaux saw off Cowplain 2-1, thanks to goals from Dean Inman and Cameron Morgan.

Fareham United gained three points over Southwick Lions with a 3-0 success, while a double from Leroy Sweeney and strikes from Pete Joddrell and Luke Fazackerley helped SDC beat Armoury 4-2.

In the top tier, Soberton United put five past Farlington Academicals, easing to a 5-0 victory. Stewart Thompson bagged a brace, with Ben Wason, Alan Jess and Olabiye Oluwaseun also finding the net.

A Rick Ayling double ensured Titchfield beat Burridge 2-0, while in Division 2 Wickham Dynamos got the better of Baffins Milton Reserves 3-1, Tim Jackson, Jim Duckworth and Colin Hutchinson getting the goals.

Alresford Athletic lost out 3-2 to AFC Fareham, despite strikes from Matthew Lickman and Joe Kennett, although Crofton Saints fared much better, beating Castle 1-0 thanks to Jamie Chalmers' finish.

In the Portsmouth Cup, AFC Swood came off second best in a ten-goal thriller with Green Dragon, losing 6-4. Dan Gregory hit two, with Dan Lucas and Andy Maunders also on the score sheet, but it wasn't enough for the Division 4 side.

And finally, in the Nicholson Cup, Hordean XI knocked out Milton Rovers with a 3-0 victory.

Youth Football



WELL DONE: Callum Hellyar (number 14) is congratulated by teammates after netting for Mountbatten School against Hove Park School and, inset, celebrates his goal.

Order nos: 13744180 & 13744184



LETTING FLY: Mountbatten's Jean-Luc Ramden, left, gets a cross in.

Order no: 13744191



ON THE RUN: Mountbatten's Archie Collier, centre, looks to attack the Hove Park School defence.

Order no: 13744188

Mountbatten's Park strife

MOUNTBATTEN School's Year 7 youngsters twice surrendered the lead before suffering a 3-2 defeat to Hove Park in the English Schools' FA Under-12 Cup.

Callum Hellyer and Saints Academy youngster Jean-Luc Ramden put Mountbatten ahead but the Brighton visitors cancelled out the lead on both occasions and went on to win 3-2.

Captain Theo Walforth led from the front for Mountbatten, who are still in the quarter-finals of the Hampshire Schools' Cup.

RIGHT: Mountbatten's Archie Collier (blue) challenges the Hove Park keeper.

Order no: 13744176



LITTLEBOY LEADS WAY FOR BURRIDGE

IN UNDER-18 action, brilliant Burridge romped to an 8-4 victory against Hedge End Rangers Blue in Division 1.

Burridge were first to strike home on 12 minutes when John Murdoch hit the target with a well placed ball wide of the keeper, **writes ALAN JOHNS.**

Rangers responded and levelled on 21 minutes, but Murdoch slotted his second home only minutes later to put Burridge back in front.

Glenn Littleboy netted his first on 34 minutes to put Burridge 3-1 up and Jack Clothier and Alfie Staples added to their score on 41 and 45 minutes as Burridge finished the half 5-1 up.

Rangers fought back and made it 5-2 on 55 minutes but Burridge were clearly still in charge. On 65 minutes Littleboy got his second followed by Staples' second on 75 minutes with a great long range shot into the top corner.

Rangers did not intend to lie down and they pulled one back on 80 minutes but Burridge hit back two minutes later with Littleboy netting to complete a second hat-trick in consecutive weeks.

■ SOTON YOUTH LEAGUE

Rangers continued to battle on and were rewarded for their efforts with a goal on 89 minutes.

Crofton Saints were also in the mood, beating Baddesley Park 9-1 and New Forest United were the only away side to win, 2-1 at Sky Blues.

The high-scoring theme continued in Division 2, with Michelmersham & Timsbury Athletic just having the edge against Littleton Juniors, winning 5-4, while Romsey Town beat Alresford Town 4-2.

Sway's 6-2 win against visitors AFC Hiltigbury caught the eye in Division 3, although Hythe & Dibden's 5-0 result against Michelmersham & Timsbury Colts was equally impressive.

After a five-week lay-off Sway were slow to get into their stride in this top-versus-bottom clash and were thankful for two close range finishes from David Steadman and Sam Nailor to establish a first-half lead.

In between, Hiltigbury's keeper made two fine saves, tipping over long range efforts from Steadman and Goodwin.

Half-time substitute Joe Fussell was quick to

provide Sway with more urgency in the second half, picking up a loose ball and driving forward before releasing Goodwin, who in turn struck a left foot shot, which was deflected for a corner. Goodwin took the corner deep to the far post where Clark rose highest to head emphatically home.

The next Goodwin corner fell to Luke Gurton on the edge of the area from where he calmly dispatched Sway's fourth with a crisp, low strike.

Clark was the beneficiary of one well-timed Harry Yates through ball but his stabbed shot rolled agonisingly wide. Gould was then back in the action forcing a hand-ball from a Hiltigbury defender and smashing the resulting penalty home himself. To round off the scoring, a period of patient possession brought Gould to the corner of the penalty area from where he shaped an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

BTC (Soton) beat Itchen Royals 4-0 and Wyvern enjoyed their trip to St Francis Rangers, winning 2-1.

Salisbury City reached the semi-final of this year's Hampshire Cup by beating QK (Southampton) with the only goal of a closely fought match.

In the under 16 age-group, two of the Hampshire Cup semi-finalists were identified – Hythe & Dibden knocked out Moneyfields 3-1 and Sholing White beat Winchester City Red 5-4.

AFC Totton had a fine away win at Salisbury City, winning 7-1 at the top of Division 1, with Winchester City White winning 3-1 at Sholing Red.

Warsash Wasps were top-scorers in Division 2, 7-1 winners at home to Colden Common, while Chamberlayne Athletic hammered six goals past Colden Common Rangers, conceding only two in the process and BTC (Soton) Stoneham won 2-1 at Bitterne.

More big-scores in Division 3, BTC (Soton) Spartans leading the way with their 8-2 home win against Romsey Town, with goals from hat-trick hero Mathew Ireland, two from Callum Williams and one each from Archie Fitzgerald and Craig Johnson, but Botley Village's 7-1 win at Wyvern and Blackfield & Langley's 6-2 at Sarisbury Sparks ran them close.

AFC Stoneham had a comfortable 3-1 home win against New Forest and it ended all-square when Townhill Lingland Panthers entertained Burridge, sharing the goals at 3-3.

Youth Football

All change for Poole

POOLE & East Dorset Under-15 manager Steve Llewelyn has been busy re-setting his 'satnav' following a switch of opposition in the ESFA Under-15 Trophy.

Poole thought they would be making the long trek to West Cornwall following Swansea's 'expulsion' from the competition for failing to play their weather-delayed tie against the West Country county.

But Swansea appealed against the ESFA's decision and promptly beat West Cornwall 2-0 to line up a juicy showdown with Poole on Welsh soil on Tuesday evening for a place in the quarter-finals.

Ironically, Poole won their last ESFA tie across the Welsh border, beating Newport 5-4 after extra-time.

If they can win in Swansea, Poole will host Vale of White Horse in the quarter-finals.

The Poole & East Dorset squad is: Luke Horton, Dan Munday (QES, Wimborne), Sam White, Morgan Turner, Alex Martin, Josh Powley (Poole Grammar), Billy Lowes, Jordan Keshall (Ashdown), Jack Dickson, Zac Barnes (Poole High), George Gibbs, Jon Nichols, Todd Coombs (Lyttchett Minster), Josh Hanratty, Brandon Cooper (Corfe Hills).

BP STEP ON THE GAS

NO HOLDING BACK: Barton Peveril's Will Harris (green) and Peter Symonds' Ollie Dobson go for the ball.

Echo pictures by Joanna Mann
Order no:13774127



STANDINGS

	FIRST XI					
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Itchen	9	8	1	0	48	8 24
Brockenhurst	10	7	1	2	39	10 23
Alton	10	7	2	1	27	19 22
Farnborough	9	7	2	0	40	16 21
Sparsholt	10	6	1	3	27	7 21
Poole	9	6	3	0	29	17 18
Taunton's	7	5	1	1	31	9 16
Peter Symonds	9	4	3	2	27	20 14
Totton	8	4	2	2	12	11 14
Queen Mary's	10	4	5	1	22	23 13
Barton Peveril	9	2	5	2	20	38 8
Havant	10	2	7	1	14	33 7
Bournemouth	10	1	7	2	15	28 5
Portsmouth	10	1	8	1	13	44 4
Basingstoke	10	1	9	0	15	54 3
South Downs	8	0	8	0	7	49 0

	SECOND XI					
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Itchen	12	12	0	0	77	7 36
Queen Mary's	13	10	2	1	50	18 31
Totton	12	10	1	1	46	14 31
St Vincent	13	9	4	0	39	23 27
Taunton's	11	8	2	1	41	19 25
Farnborough	10	8	2	0	50	20 24
Sparsholt	11	7	3	1	34	15 22
Barton Peveril	13	7	6	0	41	26 21
Alton	12	7	5	0	33	30 21
Bay House	11	5	3	3	26	17 18
Peter Symonds	11	5	5	1	39	45 16
Brockenhurst	10	5	5	0	36	20 15
Fareham	11	4	6	1	27	33 13
Bournemouth	13	4	8	1	21	43 13
Poole	13	3	8	2	18	42 11
Eastleigh	12	3	9	0	18	65 9
South Downs	10	2	7	1	13	35 7
Havant	12	2	10	0	10	60 6
Basingstoke	14	0	13	1	4	38 1
Portsmouth	12	0	12	0	17	70 0

	THIRD XI					
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Sparsholt	9	7	0	2	32	10 23
Brockenhurst	10	7	1	2	33	13 23
Itchen	7	6	0	1	50	4 19
Farnborough	7	6	1	0	37	8 18
Barton Peveril	10	6	4	0	34	16 18
Queen Mary's	10	6	4	0	27	22 18
King Edward's VI	10	5	3	2	34	23 17
Totton	7	5	2	0	17	5 15
Collegiate (HCS)	9	4	4	0	24	36 12
South Downs	8	4	4	0	13	26 12
Taunton's	8	3	3	2	15	14 11
Peter Symonds	10	2	8	0	15	32 6
Poole	11	2	9	0	11	30 6
Bay House	10	1	7	2	15	26 5
St Vincent	8	1	6	1	4	42 4
Eastleigh	8	0	8	0	2	56 0

Barton Peveril launched an astonishing triple comeback to force a goal-lashed 5-5 draw with Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League neighbours Peter Symonds at Chestnut Avenue.

PSC looked set for an easy win when an Ollie Dobson brace and a third goal from Nick White sent them into a 3-0 lead, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

But by half-time Barton Peveril had clawed two goals back, leaving coaches Rob Kitley and James Martin to rescript their half-time team talks.

Kitley initially thought he had got his words spot on as little Martin Brown eased Peter Symonds 4-2 up.

But 'Motivator Martin' got the BP show back on the road, with a second comeback levelling things up four-all.

Alex Dale's fifth goal looked to have sealed it for Peter Symonds, who frustratingly had a goal ruled out, before never-say-die Barton Peveril salvaged a remarkable point with the tenth goal of the day.

Profligate Totton were left to rue on the effectual loss of two points when bottom-of-the-table Bournemouth snatched a late equaliser to draw 1-1 at Dibden Purlieu.

"We created so many chances but couldn't finish them off - it was so frustrating," lamented skipper Josh Armstrong.

Totton scored late on themselves and when Anthony Williams celebrated, the Water Lane students thought the points were in the bag.

"But we gave away a needless free kick right at the end and the Bournemouth striker finished off a one-on-one opportunity with Gareth



ROUGH AND TUMBLE: Barton Peveril's George Ball (green) hits the deck with Peter Symonds' Mason Brown.

Order no: 13774115

Schultze," Armstrong groaned.

Alton's outside title chances took a severe dent with a 5-0 thrashing from Sparsholt - a result which leaves coach Dean Gilliatt with only a matter of days to pick up confidence before Wednesday's Peter Munro Cup semi-final tie against Itchen.

Brockenhurst also went on a scoring spree, hammering Portsmouth 7-0 with Harry Cooper adding to the braces by Jack Lovell, Adam Stride and Lewis Ross.

Farnborough went into cruise mode after taking a 3-0 lead against Havant through Harrison Read, Ross Cheek and Ryan George.

"But Havant pulled two back and could have equalised at the end," said team manager Alan Reed, grateful for a 3-2 win.

Wednesday's First XI league fixtures: Alton v Brockenhurst, Itchen v Sparsholt, Bournemouth v Taunton's, Peter Symonds v Totton, South Downs v Barton Peveril.



SCARS OF BATTLE: Bloodied nose for Barton Peveril's Tom Bellefield.

Order no: 13774107

MORE JUNIOR FOOTBALL ON PAGES 36-37

Youth Football



ON THE MARCH: Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies' FC under-14s who beat their Portsmouth counterparts to reach the semi-final of the Hampshire Cup.

SUPER SAINTS IN DREAM LAND

South coast rivals Pompey thumped 13-0!

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Girls & Ladies' FC under-14s powered into the quarter-finals of the Hampshire Cup with a 13-0 thumping of south coast rivals Portsmouth Ladies.

With Pompey Ladies sitting second in their league with nine victories from their 11 league matches this season, Saints expected a tough test but any nerves were quickly dispelled when Megan Chapman put the home side ahead after just three minutes.

Saints' midfielders, Tiffany Eley and Vogue Davies, were running the show and picking passes at will. Wingers Hannah Knapton and Elle Pearce scared the Pompey defence every time they went on the charge, showing silky footwork and accurate crossing they both used the full width of the pitch to

■ GIRLS AND LADIES' FOOTBALL

great advantage as Saints added five further first-half goals through Champan, with her second, Paris Payne (2), Elle Pearce and Cleo Rawlings.

In the second half the Saints continued to pile on the goals with a lot of the assists coming from Tori Adlam.

Payne and Rawlings both took their match tally to four goals apiece, while Knapton and Hannah Richards – with a great header – were also on target.

Defensively Saints were very sound and the back four of Tonks, Mottishhead, Oakley and Lusted were miserly towards Pompey, allowing them nothing to feed on.

The semi-final, against Winchester City, will take place on Sunday, February 19.

Elsewhere, Mudeford Phoenix

saw off Fleet Town 2-0, Winchester City Flyers were convincing 4-1 winners over visitors Tadley Calleva and Boscombe Albion saw off Winchester 4-1.

● Not to be outdone, Saints' under-12s defeated Portsmouth University 13-0 away from home in the Winchester and District Girls Football League.

Saints are now 11 points clear at the top of the league. Georgia Rose-Mears scored a stunning EIGHT goals for the visitors, while Leah Brown netted four times and Alisha Buckingham weighed in with a single.

Elsewhere in the league programme, Whitely Wanderers took the points in a 2-1 victory at Clanfield and in the league cup, Warsash Wasps Yellow beat hosts Bishop's Waltham 3-2.

Steers leads way for under-16s

SAINTS' under-16s cruised through to the semi-finals of the Hampshire Cup with a 3-0 victory over Alderbury, despite only having ten players.

Saints decided to play with just one up front (Bonnie Browning) and move captain Georgina Axton to centre back. This worked well, with central midfielders Grace Henderson and Lauren Steers moving up to join the attack whenever possible.

Saints had most of the early attacking play but had no clinical

finisher inside the opposing six-yard box.

Alderbury would have taken the lead had it not been for sterling defensive work by Saints' back four and by goalkeeper Lucy

Venables who at one point had to make a tremendous recovery save.

Eventually Saints took the lead when the skillful and busy Lauren Steers was brought down in the

■ **SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies made the 225-mile round trip to Forest Green Rovers but wished they had stayed at home after losing 7-0 in the South West Combination.**

With Harriet Pascoe and Jas Abbey sidelined through suspension, Saints still fielded a strong team but the game was all but over in the first 15 minutes as Rovers raced 3-0 ahead before adding a fourth before half-time and three more after the break.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT TYRO LEAGUE STANDINGS

Under-11 - Division 1								Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastleigh Juniors White	12	9	0	3	33	24	27	Hedge End Rangers White	9	6	2	1	17	8	20
Sholing Youth White	7	6	0	1	28	17	18	Pirelli Pirates	10	5	2	3	29	13	17
Windsor United Sports Red	10	5	0	5	23	24	15	Littleton Juniors Lions	10	4	2	4	26	29	14
Colden Common Rovers	9	4	1	4	24	20	13	Pace Panthers	8	2	4	2	12	12	10
Salisbury City	10	4	1	5	17	22	13	Testwood United	9	3	1	5	13	19	10
Pace Youth	9	3	1	5	31	27	10	Winchester Youth Blue	9	2	2	5	16	34	8
Sholing Youth Red	9	2	1	5	28	34	7	Townhill Lingham	7	1	3	3	18	16	6
Hedge End Rangers Blue	9	2	0	7	16	32	6								
Division 2								Division 4							
Botley Village	13	11	1	1	43	20	34	Sarisbury Sparks Amber	11	8	0	1	55	18	30
Oakwood Panthers	13	8	2	3	28	19	26	Southside AFC	11	13	0	5	51	31	24
Baddesley Park	12	8	1	3	36	20	25	St Denys Youth	10	6	1	3	37	20	19
Q K Southampton	11	7	0	4	36	15	21	Brendon Youth	10	6	1	3	35	20	19
Colden Common Royals	11	5	1	5	23	24	16	Botley Village Bears	10	5	1	4	38	17	16
City Central	12	5	0	7	31	38	15	Granley Stoneham	11	4	0	7	30	40	12
St Francis Rovers	10	2	0	8	13	27	6	Sarisbury Sparks Black	10	3	2	5	29	30	11
Sportstars	11	2	0	9	23	43	6	Michelmersham & Timsbury	11	3	1	6	41	38	10
Townhill Lingham	11	1	1	9	10	37	4	Hythe Strikers Spitfires	11	3	0	11	10	11	12
Division 3								Division 5							
Granley Stoneham Red	15	10	3	2	64	14	33	Oakwood Tigers	12	11	0	1	61	32	33
Warsash Wasps	10	9	1	0	55	13	28	Q K Southampton	10	8	0	2	55	17	24
Winchester Youth	12	8	2	2	44	16	26	Pace Cougars	9	8	0	1	41	11	24
Oakwood Hawks	12	7	2	3	44	9	23	AFC Redbridge	9	5	0	4	44	30	15
Hythe & Dibden Phoenix	13	6	1	6	51	36	19	S & D Youth	13	4	1	4	8	50	13
Hedge End Rangers White	10	5	3	2	33	16	18	Netley Royals	10	6	1	4	26	37	12
Romsey Town Panthers	11	5	1	5	28	32	16	Winzor United Sports	11	3	1	7	30	42	10
Michelmersham & Timsbury	15	3	2	10	36	70	11	AFC Hittingbury Hornets	12	2	2	8	28	58	8
Hythe Strikers	15	2	1	12	19	71	7	Hedge End Rangers Red	12	1	2	9	25	62	5
Romsey Town Cougars	13	0	0	13	15	112	0								
Division 4								Division 6							
Colden Common Rangers	11	10	0	1	79	14	30	Hythe & Dibden Hawks	12	12	0	0	1119	7	36
Ice Sports	11	8	2	1	57	14	26	Hamble United	12	9	0	3	51	30	27
St Francis Rangers	9	7	1	1	63	4	22	Wyvern Dragons	10	6	1	3	34	25	21
Fawley Falcons	13	7	1	5	40	35	22	Romsey Town Panthers	10	6	0	4	47	48	18
Bitterne Youth	10	5	3	2	42	26	18	Pirelli Pirates Crusaders	12	4	2	6	33	43	14
Alresford Town	12	3	1	8	30	43	10	Baddesley Park	11	2	1	8	42	76	7
Hythe & Dibden Legends	11	2	2	7	24	25	8	St Francis Rovers	11	2	1	8	28	69	7
Eastleigh Juniors Red	12	2	2	8	13	71	8	Bitterne Youth	11	2	0	9	17	83	6
Chamberlayne Athletic	11	0	0	11	5	121	0								
Division 5								Under-14 - Division 1							
Oakwood Eagles	14	12	0	2	88	26	36	Pace Panthers	10	8	0	2	27	12	22
AFC Hittingbury	14	11	1	2	111	27	34	Sholing Youth	10	7	1	2	37	14	22
Hamble United	15	11	1	3	70	23	34	AFC Wolves	10	6	1	3	32	10	19
Rodaway Rovers	14	9	2	3	52	32	29	Oakwood Terriers	10	6	1	3	31	16	19
Southside AFC	14	6	2	6	47	41	20	Warsash Warriors	8	5	0	3	16	14	15
Windsor United Sports Green	11	4	2	5	25	32	14	Winchester Youth	7	4	1	4	27	35	12
S & D Youth	12	3	1	8	24	53	10	Hedge End Rangers	11	1	1	9	17	51	4
Brendon Youth	14	2	0	12	26	64	6	Eastleigh Juniors White	10	1	0	9	16	62	3
Granley Stoneham Blue	13	1	2	10	19	71	5								
Sarisbury Sparks	11	1	1	9	11	74	4								
Under-12 - Division 1								Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastleigh Juniors White	10	7	2	1	33	16	23	Baddesley Park	9	8	1	0	38	9	25
Salisbury City	8	6	1	1	23	9	19	Bitterne Youth	9	6	0	3	33	9	18
Winchester Youth Black	9	6	1	3	29	18	16	Sarisbury Sparks	11	6	0	5	29	21	18
Eastleigh Juniors Red	7	4	1	2	16	8	13	Oakwood Raiders	9	5	1	3	29	23	16
Q K Southampton	9	4	1	4	17	23	13	Littleton Juniors	10	5	1	5	25	32	14
Oaklands Rangers	10	4	0	6	15	26	12	Wyvern Youth	11	1	0	9	16	55	3
St Francis Knights	11	2	2	7	20	27	8	Colden Common Rangers	9	3	1	5	14	20	10
Pace Cougars	12	2	0	10	14	40	6	Sportstars	10	0	0	10	9	53	0
Division 2								Division 3							
Testwood United	11	8	0	3	22	15	24	Eastleigh Juniors Blue	9	9	0	0	20	12	27
Warsash Wasps	13	7	2	4	37	28	23	Wellow Youth	11	6	4	1	29	20	22
Sportstars	10	6	2	2	33	17	20	Warsash Wasps	11	4	4	3	26	21	16
Weston Sports	12	4	3	5	19	20	15	Hedge End Rangers Blue	12	3	4	1	26	22	13
City Central	11	4	2	5	21	34	14	Colden Common Rovers	11	3	1	6	22	32	12
AFC Hittingbury Hawks	12	3	2	7	22	29	11	AFC Hittingbury	11	4	1	6	33	35	13
Botley Village	9	2	3	6	17	22	9	Hedge End Rangers White	12	2	3	7	18	32	9
Baddesley Park Crusaders	10	2	2	6	11	17	8	Pace Cougars	11	1	5	5	21	37	8
Division 3								Division 4							
Hedge End Rangers Blue	12	10	0	2	56	19	30	Southside AFC	11	6	4	1	34	16	22
Hythe & Dibden Hovers	10	8	1	1	55	13	25	Hythe Strikers	9	6	2	1	30	10	20
Sholing Youth	11	8	1	2	53	20	25	Romsey Town	11	5	2	4	26	24	17
Ice Sports	12	7	1	4	38	27	22	Bashley Youth	9	4	1	2	9	16	19
Sarisbury Sparks Amber	12	5	0	7	28	48	15	Totton Rangers	12	4	2	6	26	31	14
Colden Common Rangers	11	3	0	8	25	44	9	BTC Southampton	10	3	3	4	19	28	12
Hythe & Dibden Turbos	9	1	3	5	18	24	6	Weston Sports	11	2	1	8	22	44	7
Stoke Park United	13	0	0	13	9	87	0	City Central	9	0	4	5	11	37	4
Division 4								Division 5							
Wellow Youth	12	10	1	1	49	15	31	Bitterne Reds	11	10	0	1	52	11	30
Hamble United	11	9	1	1	34	13	28	Kingsway Sports	11	8	3	3	51	29	27
Sky Blues	10	5	0	5	28	22	15	Winzor United Sports	11	8	2	1	39	17	26
Littleton Juniors	10	4	1	5	21	22	13	Pace Panthers	12	7	3	2	81	24	24
Chamberlayne Athletic	12	4	1	7	30	36	13	Sky Blues	14	7	1	6	63	28	22
Granley Stoneham	10	2	0	8	22	42	6	Fawley Falcons	12	4	1	7	35	48	12
Hedge End Rangers White	11	2	0	9	13	47	6	Itchen Bulldogs	12	3	3	6	22	42	12
Division 5								Division 6							
Winchester Youth Blue	11	10	1	0	54	9	31	Alresford Town	11	1	1	9	21	47	4
Romsey Town Panthers	13	9	2	2	66	25	29	Hamble United	13	0	1	3	7	129	0
Oakwood Lions	13	9	1	3	49	18	28								
Brendon Youth	13	6	3	4	33	22	21								
Hythe Strikers	13	4	2	7	26	43	14								
Wyvern Youth	12	2	1	9	15	52	7								
Romsey Town Cougars	10	1	1	8	16	38	4								
AFC Hittingbury Hurricanes	12	0	0	12	16	76	0								
Division 6								Under-15 - Division 1							
Sarisbury Sparks Black	12	10	0	2	70	15	36		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southside AFC	12	10	0	2	62	19	30	Eastleigh Juniors	8	7	1	0	39	1	22
Townhill Lingham	13	8	1	4	49	35	25	Compton Youth	9	7	0	2	32	14	21
AFC Hittingbury Harriers	13	7	0	6	31	24	21	Pace Panthers	7	6	1	0	46	3	19
Baddesley Park Knights	14	6	1	7	39	43	19	Baddesley Park	9	5	0	4	28	24	14
Bitterne Youth	13	4	0	9	25	69	12	Bitterne Youth	10	3	1	6	15	42	10
Fawley Falcons	13	3	2	8	41	52	11	Pace Youth	8	2	2	4	15	26	8
S & D Youth	12	0	0	12	16	76	0	Littleton Juniors	11	1	1	9	11	47	4
Under-13 - Division 1								Bashley Youth	8	0	2	6	10	42	2
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Division 2							
Salisbury City	10	9	1	0	44	7	28	St Francis Rangers	11	11	0	0	54	16	33
Hedge End Rangers Blue	10	7	1	2	30	12	22	Hythe & Dibden Rangers	10	6	1	3	40	24	19
Eastleigh Juniors	11	7	0	4	22	15	21	Bishop's Waltham Dynamos	11	4	2	2	30	28	14
Pace Pumas	10	6	2	2	23	11	20	Brendon Youth	9	4	1	4	22	28	13
Winchester Youth Black	9	4	2	3	26	17	14	Sky Blues	10	4	0	6	29	25	12
Colden Common Rangers	9	0	0	16	22	37	0	Wyvern Dragons	11	4	0	7	31	32	12
St Francis Rangers	11	1	1	9	14	38	4	Colden Common	12	3	2	7	22	54	11
Sportstars	10	0	1	9	12	54	1	St Denys Youth	9	2	0	7	17	38	6
Division 2								Division 3							
BTC Southampton Nimrods	9	7	1	1	46	23	22	Testwood United	13	10	0	3	45	24	30
Romsey Town Cougars	11	7	1	3	38	24	22	Botley Village	10	10	0	1	40	15	27
Bashley Youth	11	4	3	4	32	31	15	City Central	13	8	1	4	38	39	25
Warsash Wasps	9	5	0	4	22	28	15	Romsey Town Panthers	12	7	1	4	44	25	22
AFC Hittingbury Hawks	10	5	3	2	32	17	14	Warsash Wasps	12	6	3	3	43	32	21
Alresford Town	12	2	2	8	29	2									

Youth Football

Sholing stun the league leagers

SHOLING'S under-12s sprang a second-half surprise on league leaders Hedge End Rangers Blue in the Tyro League Division 3.

Trailing 2-0 at half-time, the young Boatmen fought back for a 4-2 win through Louis Miles, Bradley Targett, Jack Newman and Charlie Taylor.

It might all have been so different but for the heroics of Sholing's wonder keeper Alex Middleditch, pictured.

Having started the game by denying Hedge End what looked a certain goal, Middleditch miraculously saved two second-half penalties after the Boatmen had pulled back to 2-2.

He judged the right direction both times, inspiring his team to a memorable victory which avenged their 4-1 defeat by Hedge End on the opening day of the season. It left Sholing – the promoted Division 4 champions – in third place, level on points with Hythe & Dibden Hovers, having won their last seven league games.



Panthers close in

ROMSEY Town Panthers under-12s need to win both their remaining Tyro League U12 Division 5 games to be in with a chance of promotion after they disposed of Hillingbury Hurricanes 5-1 last weekend.

Levi Greenough got the opener for Romsey, slotting in Haydn Barnes' cross just before the break.

However, hosts Hillingbury hit back early in the second half.

Mitchell Wheeler restored Romsey's lead and Louis Andrews made it 3-1 soon after and then added a fourth from a corner.

Greenough rounded off the win with a few minutes to go to keep Romsey's promotion bid firmly on course.

Winners

WELLOW under-14s won their crucial clash with promotion rivals Colden Common 2-1 last weekend.

Wellow keeper Ed Barnes saved a penalty, before Wellow made the breakthrough shortly after half-time when Sam Arnold's powerful shot took a big deflection.

Common levelled mid-way through the second half, but Adam Cater's powerful header sealed all three crucial points for Wellow.



MINI LEAGUE: Romsey Town under-10s.

Order no: 13756128



MINI LEAGUE: Littleton Lions under-10s.

Order no: 13756123



**EASTLEIGH MINI-LEAGUE
-- PICTURE SPECIAL --**
*Daily Echo photographer
CHRIS MOORHOUSE was
on hand to capture the
best of last weekend's
action at Stoneham Lane*

RIGHT: Action from the clash between Bashley and Bitterne Terriers Red last weekend.

Order no: 13756177



BUNDLE: Hedge End Tigers celebrate a goal in their clash with Botley Village and, above, action from the match-up between Southside AFC and Sarisbury Sparks.

Order nos: 13756162/13756148



SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS

Youth Football



MINI LEAGUE: BTC Hammers under-10s.

Order no: 13756119



MINI LEAGUE: Hythe & Dibden Hornets under-10s. Order no: 13756117



LINE OF SIGHT: An Eastleigh Whites striker gets his shot off during his side's game with BTC Hammers and, right, no quarter is given in the match-up between Hedge End Tigers and Botley Village.

Order nos: 13756153/13756139



RIGHT: Alresford Town go on the attack in their clash with Hythe & Dibden Hornets.

Order no: 13756173

LEFT: A Testwood Dragons striker gets close attention from two Lakewood Tigers defenders.

Order no: 13756055



Town title bid starts to falter

ROMSEY Town under-14s' title aspirations took a major knock as they were held to a 3-3 draw by BTC Southampton last weekend.

Needing to bounce back from their defeat to Southside, Romsey started brightly and led after five minutes when Joseph Land-Jones converted a Tom Farr cross.

Their lead lasted a matter of minutes, however, BTC equalising following a deflected shot from the edge of the Romsey box.

Romsey led again after a smart build-up down the left, involving Ralf Sweetman and Harvey Goodridge, saw Goodridge's cross fired home by Farr from the edge of the box.

Town conceded a second equaliser when they left a BTC player totally unmarked to head home from close range, but took the lead for the third time when Farr was again in the right place to knock in the rebound following a fierce Land-Jones shot was only parried by the keeper.

Romsey missed a series of half-chances that would have made the game safe and were punished late on when a long-range effort was deflected in.

Seven up for Winch

WELLOW'S first game of 2012 proved a tough affair against a strong Winchester side last weekend, as they fell to a 7-2 defeat.

Wellow alternated Billy Galton and George Ludlam in goal and, despite some impressive saves, the accuracy and power of the Winchester attack told.

Defenders William Gale and Matthew Webb were resolute in defence but unable to keep out the Winchester forwards.

Wellow's pride was partially restored by a Matthew Shobbrook double with assists by Otis Rees-Long and Danny Brock.

Bees in top form

BRAISHFIELD under-nines' good form continued as they produced an outstanding performance to beat Barton Stacey 4-0.

From the kick-off, the visitors were overwhelmed as Bees fullbacks Brett Brumbill and Harry Croft-Baker linked well with the forwards to create several chances before they took a deserved lead, albeit through an unfortunate own goal.

James Moody added a classy second goal before Will Whitmore drove home a third and Charlie Tubb made it 4-0 after a goalmouth scramble in the second half.

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BOOK of the WEEK

The Art of Fielding
By Chad Harbach

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £10.19, saving 40% on rrp

PRIOR to the last Rugby World Cup, whenever Jonny Wilkinson stepped up to take a penalty, you would put the mortgage on him slotting the ball over for three guaranteed points.

The same was true of Tiger Woods when he had a glimpse of final day major glory – he never failed.

A Roger Federer serve, a Lionel Messi penalty, a Mark Cavendish burst for the finishing line: at his peak, each man falls into the same ultra-reliable category.

There is (or was) a metronomic excellence about these sportsmen, an unerring ability to get a kick, a putt, a serve or a sprint so absolutely right that it sets them apart from their peers.

In most instances, it's the relentless march of time which accounts for an athlete's eventual inability to succeed where once he did so with majestic ease.

In a much smaller number of cases, however, sometimes an athlete in his prime simply drops out of the sporting 'zone' for no apparent reason and becomes incapable of recapturing the form or rhythm that once propelled him skywards.

Chad Harbach's engaging debut novel, *The Art of Fielding*, is based upon the experience of Steve Blass, a star pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates who, two years after helping the Pirates win baseball's 1971 World Series, found his ability to pitch a baseball accurately had completely deserted him.

Today, this sudden and inexplicable loss of sporting ability is known as Steve Blass Disease.

The Art of Fielding is not, however, a book solely about baseball.

It's set in a Midwestern college called Westish which focuses upon the baseball exploits of Henry Skrimshander, a shy teenager who finds that when he takes to the baseball field, he becomes a phenomenal player.

So good is Henry that he attracts the attention of big team scouts, at which point he begins to think too much about his game...

A passing knowledge of baseball certainly helps when reading what is, at heart, a simple tale of redemption and loyalty laced with enough story strands to appease any Hollywood film director.

Along the way, it sheds some light on why sportsmen might suffer from Steve Blass Disease, but unfortunately, it doesn't tell us why it happens.

● We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *The Art of Fielding* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (www.sportsbookofthemonth.com) and answer the following question:

Which team are baseball's reigning World Series champions?



-- CRICKET LATEST -- CRICKET LATEST --

THE DAY I PLAYED WITH SAEED AJMAL

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

IT is hard to believe now, but less than five years ago Saeed Ajmal was playing club cricket in Sussex.

Even more remarkably, I had the privilege of playing alongside him one afternoon during his three years as Cuckfield CC's overseas pro.

Back then he was a virtual unknown outside Pakistan and the Sussex Premier League.

Now of course he is one of the most feared spinners in world cricket and was the destroyer-in-chief as England lost the first Test against Pakistan by ten wickets in Dubai this week.

Little did I know I would be playing alongside a future superstar when I rolled up at Cuckfield Park, one of the most picturesque grounds in the south, to play an all-day friendly for my old club back in August 2006.

Most of my teammates that day were friends from the 1990s. But I had not met Saeed, the popular Pakistani, before.

"Just wait till you see him bowl," I was told. We were playing the Brondesbury Erratics, regular opposition during the club's established annual cricket week.

Naturally, Saeed had to wait his turn to bowl.

According to the scorer that day, he came on after I reeled off an uncharacteristically tidy opening spell (6-3-13-1).

But my main memory is of fielding in the slips while Saeed teased and baffled a succession of club players during his haul of 6 for 28.

So masterful was his sleight of hand, I wondered if this was for real or if I had just had a glass of port too many during the lunch interval.

He showed no mercy to amateurs nonplussed as he worked his magic, spinning the ball this way and that with the same doosra that did for England.

The number one Test side in the world did not fare any better against Saeed this week as he returned a career-best 7-55 before finishing with match figures of 10 for 97.

His success over the last few years has not surprised his former Cuckfield teammates, who he helped win promotion to the Sussex Premier League for the first time in 2005.

Saeed took 95 wickets at 12.9 apiece as Cuckfield achieved top-three finishes in 2006 and 2007.

His captain for two seasons was Chris Mole, a housemaster at Lancing College.

"Saeed also coached at Lancing and would spend up to five hours a day in the nets on his own, bowling ball after ball at a set of stumps," recalls Mole.

"When he left he returned a bag full of old balls we assumed had been lost!"

Mole, 33, also had the challenge of keeping wicket to him. "It was great fun. We'd have an understanding when he would bowl a certain delivery – he had about eight in his armoury then.

"But there were times when I went to collect the ball down the leg side and it went through first slip! He would just stand there grinning!"

"Former county batsmen would come off the pitch shaking their heads not knowing which way it was going, but not every ball was a miracle delivery. He had a one-day mentality so would flatten his flight if he got smashed around."

Within a year of playing his last game for Cuckfield, Saeed helped Pakistan beat India in Karachi on his international debut.

Now 34, his 55 ODI appearances have yielded 78 wickets at 24.7 and he has 93 wickets from just 18 Tests, at 27.96 apiece.

"He deserves all the success he's getting, he's a lovely guy who just loves playing with his mates," added Mole.



FLASHBACK: Ajmal, circled, with his Cuckfield Park teammates.

SPIN KING:
Saeed Ajmal.

-- CRICKET LATEST -- CRICKET LATEST --

HAYDEN'S HAPPY TIME AS A HAMPSHIRE HERO

AUSSIE legend Matthew Hayden has spoken on his pride at being a former Hampshire Cricket star.

The man with 103 Test caps to his name was the county's overseas player for the entire 1997 English summer, *writes AHMER KHOKHAR.*

He left many great memories, topping the county's Championship, one-day league and Benson & Hedges Cup run-scoring charts.

He struck 1,438 Championship runs in 16 games, with only fellow Aussies Darren Lehmann and Stuart Law and England's Steve James scoring more.

But no-one made more one-day league runs than Hayden's 654, with two centuries and three half-centuries.

Lehmann and Law were second and third, showing the huge impact those three Australians had on our county scene 15 years ago.

Hayden has never forgotten his summer in Southampton.

"I'm regularly in contact with Rod Bransgrove and I see Robin Smith quite often in and around the Australian scene," he said.

"I loved every minute of my time with Hampshire.

"It was a wonderful place to me and my family.

"I learned so much about my game over there and I'm still really good friends with Tony and Sally Baker, who were the original CEOs when I was there, so I've got fond memories of everything at Hampshire.

"The Rose Bowl is a fabulous place and it's just a brilliant county who I will support forever really.

"I'm proud of my association with everyone at the club."

Hayden might have retired from the Test scene three years ago this month, but he has been in action recently playing for Brisbane Heat in

**I'm proud of my association
with everyone at Hampshire**

the revamped KFC Big Bash t20 League.

Hayden, 40 last October, scored 207 runs in his seven innings for Heat, who failed to make the semi-finals.

"I'm going to sit down and talk about whether I play on in the Big Bash League next year in the next few weeks," he revealed. "I had a 20-week pre-season to get to this point, to get my skills to a level I was happy with to play in a tournament like this.

"Now I will celebrate the fact that I played good cricket and the team played good cricket, even though we didn't make the finals.

"I'm going to go down to the beach to contemplate my future.

"I've got a very successful business in the leisure and lifestyle area 'The Hayden Way' and I'm also doing some television presenting and looking to develop more innovative programme content.

"I've really, really enjoyed how much the fans have supported the Brisbane Heat.

"I've left the IPL now (where he played for the Chennai Super Kings) and at some point I want to settle down and spend time at home because the travelling and touring takes its toll.

"I've got three little ones and its fabulous being involved in their lives as much as possible."



MATTHEW HAYDEN FACT FILE

TEST CRICKET

103 Tests, 8,625 runs @ 50.73. HS: 380

OVERALL FIRST CLASS

295 games, 24,603 runs @ 52.57.

ONE DAY INTERNATIONALS

160 games, 6,131 runs @ 44.10

OVERALL LIST A

308 games, 12,051 runs @ 44.03

England's batsmen promise to mount fightback

ENGLAND know they urgently need to pull off one of their trademark tricks by immediately bouncing back from defeat to stay alive in their three-Test series against Pakistan.

Andrew Strauss's team were back in the International Cricket Council's GCA nets this morning, after a day off yesterday, and will be on the road tomorrow for the second Test in Abu Dhabi starting on Wednesday.

They should, of course, still have been playing the first match at the adjacent Dubai International Cricket Stadium, but that contest was lost by 10 wickets inside three days – largely because of their abject batting, against off-spinner Saeed Ajmal in particular.

Jonathan Trott, pictured, was unique among his team-mates in that he did not fall to spin in either innings – and he is optimistic that England can make an instant response to adversity.

"Being a part of this England team for two or three years, we've had a few losses and we've managed to bounce back in the following game," said Trott.

"We hope we can do that again – and being close-knit and playing well together and knowing each other's games so well, it's just a matter of time for us to get back to winning ways."

England appear determined they will not be sucked into the controversy over the legality of Ajmal's action – despite coach Andy Flower's notably equivocal remarks on the subject yesterday.

Instead, they will focus on what they can and must do to help themselves.

"Whenever you go into the first Test and don't score big in the first innings, you're going to put your bowlers and yourself under pressure," added Trott. "But that happened, and we're looking to rectify it in the second game."



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for more
Hampshire
cricket news

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DANNY BRIGGS

Briggs and Vince make Lions cut

Hants pair included for Sri Lanka tour

HAMPSHIRE pair James Vince and Danny Briggs have been included in the England Lions squad for the forthcoming tour of Sri Lanka.

They are in contention to play two Twenty20 internationals against Bangladesh A on Sunday and Monday, after which a revised 15-man squad will begin a five-match one-day Series against Sri Lanka A in Dambulla on Friday.

Jade Dernbach, Craig Kieswetter, Samit Patel and Chris Woakes have been included in a tour party featuring 11 other members of the Lions squad which lost the recent one-day series in Bangladesh 3-2.

Simon Kerrigan, Tom Maynard, Tymal Mills, Boyd Rankin and Jason Roy will all return to their counties.

ECB National Selector Geoff Miller said: "The Sri Lanka tour will provide a further opportunity for us to assess players in the 50-over format before we finalise selection for the senior team's one-day series against Pakistan in UAE next month.

"Jade Dernbach, Craig Kieswetter, Samit Patel and Chris Woakes will be keen to use this tour to press their claims for a place in our one-day squad as will the other Lions players who recently completed the tour of Bangladesh."

England Lions squad to tour Sri Lanka: James Taylor (Nottinghamshire, captain), Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire), Scott Borthwick (Durham), Danny Briggs (Hampshire), Jack Brooks (Northamptonshire), Nathan Buck (Leicestershire), Joe Buttler (Somerset), Jade Dernbach (Surrey), Alex Hales (Nottinghamshire), Craig Kieswetter (Somerset), Stuart Meaker (Surrey), Samit Patel (Nottinghamshire), Joe Root (Yorkshire), James Vince (Hampshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire).



JAMES VINCE

2012 Great South Run launch ... 2012 Great

PURDUE'S EYEING



HAMPSHIRE's Charlie Purdue is targeting London 2012 qualification – and an injury-free Bupa Great South Run.

The 10k star attended this week's Great South Run launch at Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, having finished fourth in a time of 53:48 despite spraining an ankle during last October's event.

Entry is now open for this year's

GREAT RUN: Charlie Purdue pictured during the 2011 Great South Run.

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

race, which takes place on October 28 and will almost certainly feature thousands of SO postcode runners.

But before then Purdue, who comes from Hook and runs for Aldershot, Farnham & District AC, has London 2012 in her sights.

"That's my ultimate goal, I've got the dates on the back of my door and is all I'm really thinking about," she said.

Purdue needs to run 10k in 31:45sec to qualify for the

Olympics, having been dogged by injury recently. Her current personal best is 32:36.

Now fully fit, she is confident of running that time.

"I've been training in the swimming pool, the gym and on the bike most days including Christmas Day," said the former European cross country junior champion.

"I love running on the road and one day I'd like to do a marathon but at the moment I want to focus on the 10k."

The 20-year-old also hopes to qualify for the Olympic 5k but after London 2012, the Great South Run will be in her sights.



Linvoy's test of endurance

LINVOY Primus is hoping to celebrate Faith & Football's tenth anniversary by beating last year's Great South Run time.

The former Pompey captain raised more than £2,500 for his charity after finishing his first Great South Run in 104 minutes three months ago. But he is determined to run faster this year.

"If I can raise a similar amount of money that would be great but I know what to expect this year so hopefully

I'll finish in a better time," he said. "I've also got a 180-mile cycle ride in September as well as the Great South a month later so I'm training for both."

During his Premier League career, Primus covered up to 10km a game. But endurance training has taken some getting used to.

"Football's all about the short, sharp stuff so I wasn't used to the endurance and it took me two days to recover last year," he said.

"It was definitely the hardest challenge but the atmosphere was amazing. People took the mickey as they ran past me but the crowd helped me through it."

"My plan is to do a full marathon in the next five to ten years and this is a step towards that."

STILL PLAYING: Primus, right, in a Pompey v Saints veterans match last year.



South Run launch ... 2012 Great South Run ...

A CAPITAL GAIN

She expects an improvement on last year's experience.

"At the four-mile marker I twisted my ankle but still ran the rest of the race, I didn't want to stop," she said.

"I went to Kenya the next day for three weeks' altitude training but hurt my knee trying to compensate for it."

Charlie had knee surgery in May and finished second at the Great Edinburgh Run (10km) last October.

Wendy Sly, who is on Great Britain's cross country management team, is confident she will qualify for London 2012.

"Charlie's got a very good chance of making the team, she's

had a lot of injury troubles but she's one of our great hopes," said Sly, a silver medalist in the 3,000m at Los Angeles 1984. "She's had knee and ankle problems but she looks fit and will be there this summer without question."

READY TO GO

AGAIN: From left – Invoy Primus, Wendy Sly, Charlie Purdew and Dee Thresher help launch the 2012 Great South Run this week.



Olympic medallist just glad to be alive

SHE won an Olympic silver medal in the same 3,000m final that was overshadowed by home favourite Mary Decker tripping over the barefoot Zola Budd at Los Angeles 1984.

But Wendy Sly, who had a strong rivalry with South African-born Brit Budd during her running career, is just glad to be alive as she prepares for her first Bupa Great South Run.

Eight years ago she suffered a similar brain injury that claimed

the life of actress Natasha Richardson after being knocked to the ground while being mugged.

"It was obviously very serious and I had a very serious operation about six weeks afterwards," she said.

"But I never really thought too much about it."

"Not until the last couple of weeks when, strangely, I've met two doctors who've both said I'm lucky to be here."



"I don't think anybody said that to me at the time so I didn't appreciate how precarious my situation was! I was very lucky."

Now 52, Wendy, pictured back in the mid 1980s, hopes to run the ten-mile course in a respectable 70 minutes while raising money for Rutherford Special Needs school in South Croydon.

"The head teacher is a friend of mine and they need a bus," she said. "I'm doing this to raise money for one."

Wendy will also compete in the British Great Manchester Swim in July, having returned to organised race events to run for charity at the 13.2-mile Great North Run three years ago.

She continued: "I've always kept fit but sometimes I take training to a stupid level and think I'm 25 years younger than I am!"

"If I run sub 70 minutes I would be quite pleased with myself, but it's just going to be great to be part of such a wonderful event."

"It's a world-class race with people from all round the world competing on a very fast course."

Kenny tunes up for worlds

PARALYMPIC champion Darren Kenny is in hard training for next month's world championships.

Verwood-based Kenny has just spent two weeks at the Newport Velodrome in Wales ahead of the Championships in Los Angeles, California.

A mixture of high intensity speed work and pacing behind a motorbike should see Kenny in top form.

At last year's championships in Italy he won three gold medals and will be looking to defend all his titles in the USA.

He will start as favourite in the 1km TT and the 3,000m individual pursuit. The team sprint, however, will prove a harder ask.

A change in the rules means the GB team cannot pick its strongest three riders.

Kenny will line up with world and Paralympic champions Jody Cundy and Sarah Storey and the trio should prove too strong for the opposition.

Also heading to the States will be tandem pilot Barney Storey. Now based at the national



TRAINING HARD: Darren Kenny pictured at the Newport Velodrome this week.

cycling centre in Manchester, Storey, from Corfe Mullen, remains a member of Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers.

Storey, along with visually impaired stoker Neil Fachie, will compete in the 1km time trial and the tandem sprint.

It promises to be a busy year for the squad and both Kenny and Storey will hope to be selected for the London Paralympic games in August/September.

● More than 80 riders have signed up for the third of Bournemouth Jubilee's four winter reliability trials.

The 75-mile route takes in some of the biggest hills in Dorset.

The 100-mile event on February 12 concludes the series and those who have completed all four rides will receive a specially-minted medal.

● This Sunday sees the final round of the Wessex League Cyclo-Cross competition.

Held at Thruxton motor circuit, entry is on the line. Under-12s start at 10am with seniors at 12.45pm.

Scare are they now



HANTS PGA DINNER (1983): Left to right: David Miller, David Harrison, Lawrie McMenemy, Hogan Stott, Margaret Wells and Chris De Bruin.

Order no: 13780003



ROMSEY GC (1978): Back, left to right: G Bringloe, D Buckley, G Gale, F Barrett, F Fren. Front: J Harrison, J Harrison (Mrs), Earl Mountbatten, J Pilkington, M Zabiela.

Order no: 13780044



SOUTH HANTS LICENSED VICTUALLERS & ALLIED TRADES (1984): Back, left to right: Bernard Johnson, Graham Smith, John McMullen, Peter Enwright, Barrie Cooke, John Saunders, John Hollowbread, David Spong. Front: Alan McLure, Bryn Elliott.

Order no: 13780033



STONEHAM GC (1970):

Jean Lawson and Christine Mackintosh.

Order no: 13780047



SOUTHAMPTON GC (1985) LEFT: Back, left to right: E Ireland, J Burt, S Marks, T Parker, C Moore, N Ryder. Front: B Forder, A Bow, R Buncombe, G Cunningham.

Order no: 13780036

SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS GC (1984) - BELOW: Back row, left to right: John Turner, Chris Moore, Tony Cummins, Tony Yates, George Hatchard. Front: Brian Gregory, Ernie Hallett, Noel Adamson.

Order no: 13780040



HAMPSHIRE AMATEURS (1978): Names not in order: Norman Bradford, Bob Harvey, John McCracken, Brian Winteridge, Malcolm Edwards, Peter Williams, Kevin Weeks, David Harrison, Brian Mudge, Ian Tilbrook, Adrian Barber, Ashley Sharpe, John Nettell.

Order no: 13780010



STONEHAM GC (1978): Jean Lawson, Patrick Lawson.

Order no: 13780029

Scare are they now



HANTS PGA DINNER (1978): Left to right: Guy Hunt, Jack Wells, Peter Swann. Order no: 13780051



ECHO GOLF FINALS (1978): Left to right: Gillian Wright, Betty Tripp, David Smith, Kevin Wheavil. Order no: 13780057



SOUTHAMPTON GC (1977) MAIN PIC: Left to right: Ron Strange, Mickey Tuck, David Kendall, Maurie Blackstone.
ECHO GOLF FINALS (1981) INSET: P Lockwood, K Churchill, P Cooper, S Greenwood. Order nos: 13780062/13780024



ISLE OF WIGHT GOLF UNION (1980): Left to right: Justin Morey, Howard Manning, Sally Mann. Order no: 13780008



ROMSEY GC (1977): Back, left to right: R Weeks, G Gale, A Strange, S Smith, Front: F Barrett, J Pilkington, D Buckley, Earl Mountbatten, M Zabiela, M Powell, P Buggy, E Wilson. Order no: 13780013



ECHO GOLF FINALS (1979): Left to right: Patricia Pink, Nora Wilson, Ian Carter, Stanley Farr. Order no: 13780019

STUBBINGTON 10K ROAD RACE PICTURE SPECIAL



Order no: 13755053



Order no: 13755047



Order no: 13755028



Order no: 13755065



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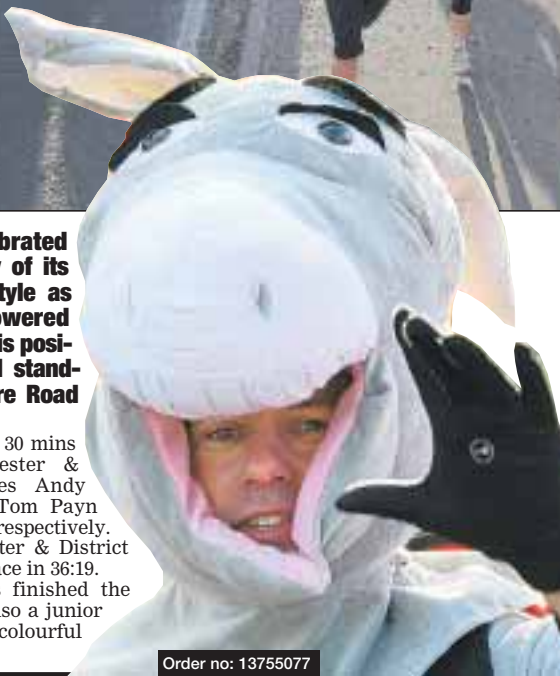


SPRINT FINISH: James Dean (Totton Running Club), left, races with Thomas Johnson (Southampton AC) to the finish line.

Order no: 13755117

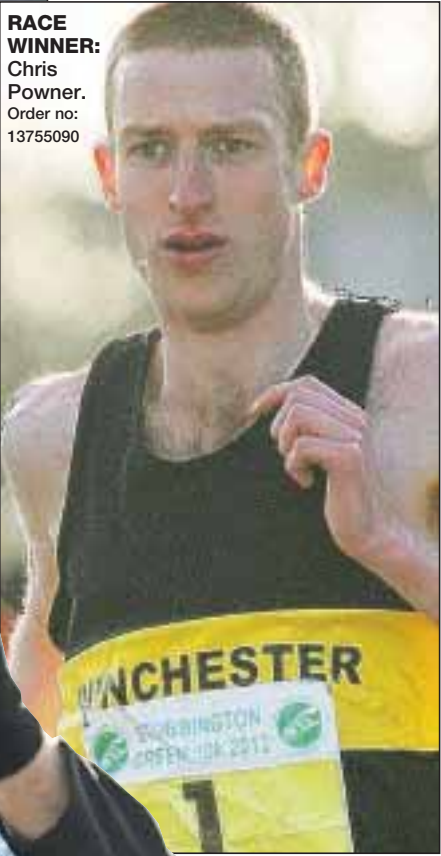
STUBBINGTON celebrated the 26th anniversary of its 10k race in some style as Chris Powner powered home to strengthen his position in the individual standings of the Hampshire Road Race League.

Powner came home in 30 mins 40 secs, with Winchester & District AC teammates Andy Greenleaf (30:53) and Tom Payn (32:15) second and third respectively. Lucy Elliott (Winchester & District AC) won the women's race in 36:19. Almost 1,500 runners finished the race, while there was also a junior fun run and some very colourful fancy dress entries.



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RACE WINNER:
Chris Powner.
Order no: 13755090



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12 Mar : Ostend & Brugge 5 day	£239
12 Mar : Highland Fling 5 day	£249
12 Mar : Wales - Castle & Slate 5 day	£259
12 Mar : Warners Alveston Hall 5 day	£299
12 Mar : North Wales - Rhyl 5 day	£175
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19 Mar : South Wales - Tenby 5 day	£229
19 Mar : North Devon - Bideford 5 day	£169
19 Mar : Paignton at Leisure 5 day	£159
19 Mar : North Devon - Woolacombe 5 day	£149
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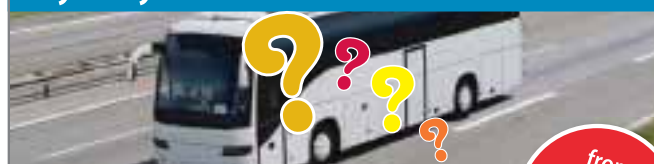
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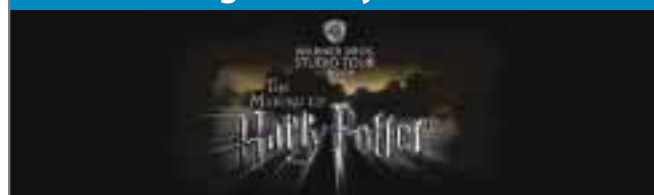
Departing Saturday 24 March 2012

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel with dinner
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Please note: the destination of this Mystery Break will be in the UK,
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- Admission to the Malvern Spring Gardening Show
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Barclays Premier League

Bolton	L	Liverpool	L
HT 1-0			
Everton	1	Blackburn	1
Cahill 24		Goodwillie 72	
HT 1-0		Att 32,464	
Fulham	5	Newcastle	2
Murphy 52 pen		Guthrie 43	
Chempsey 59, 65, 89		Ben Arfa 85	
Zamora 68 pen			
HT 0-1		Att 25,692	
Norwich	0	Chelsea	0
HT 0-0		Att 26,792	
Q.P.R.	3	Wigan	1
Helguson 33 pen		Rodallega 66	
Buzsaky 45			
Smith 81		Att 16,002	
HT 2-0			
Stoke	1	W.B.A.	2
Jerome 86		Morrison 35	
		Dorrans 90	
HT 0-1		Att 26,865	
Sunderland	2	Swansea	0
Sessegnon 14			
Gardner 85		Att 36,904	
HT 1-0			
Wolves	2	A. Villa	3
Kightly 21		Bent 11 pen	
Edwards 31		Keane 51, 84	
HT 2-1		Att 27,084	

Charlton	1	Sheff Utd	0
Jackson 21		Att 20,992	
HT 1-0			
Colchester	1	Chesterfld	2
Gillespie 32		Lester 6	
		Thompson 44	
		Att 3,312	
HT 1-2			
Huddersfld	L	Brentford	L
HT 1-1			
Notts Cnty	1	M K Dons	1
J Hughes 81 pen		Flanagan 26	
HT 0-1		Att 6,123	
Oldham	0	Exeter	0
HT 0-0		Att 3,587	
Preston	0	Leyton O	2
		Laird 67	
		Smith 80	
		Att 11,436	
HT 0-0			
Scunthorpe	1	Stevenage	1
Thompson 47		Charles 84	
HT 0-0		Att 3,968	
Sheff Wed	2	Hartlepool	2
J Johnson 58		Hartley 47	
Madine 75		Sweeney 87	
HT 0-0		Att 17,469	
Wycombe	3	Rochdale	0
Beavon 32, 73			
Winfield 75		Att 4,285	
HT 1-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Charlton	26	8	4	0	27	8	10	2	24	11	60	
Sheff Utd	27	10	2	3	23	16	6	3	4	19	12	53
Huddersfld	26	8	4	1	22	11	5	7	1	30	14	50
Sheff Wed	26	9	3	1	27	13	6	2	5	20	21	50
M K Dons	25	6	5	1	24	13	7	3	3	25	13	47
Stevenage	25	5	4	3	17	12	6	5	3	22	11	42
Carlisle	25	6	4	3	24	22	5	5	3	17	17	42
CHERRIES	27	5	2	6	14	17	6	5	3	21	17	40
Brentford	26	4	5	5	17	18	5	5	2	14	12	37
Bury	26	5	3	5	17	20	6	1	6	18	21	37
Preston	26	5	3	6	23	28	5	2	5	17	18	35
Leyton O	27	4	4	4	14	19	5	4	4	16	19	35
Hartlepool	27	3	2	8	10	16	6	5	3	22	20	34
Notts Cnty	26	4	4	2	23	15	3	2	9	19	25	33
Colchester	26	5	4	2	24	25	3	4	5	12	16	33
Oldham	26	5	3	5	16	16	3	5	5	16	21	32
Tranmere	27	5	6	3	13	10	3	1	9	15	23	31
Exeter	27	4	4	5	13	14	2	4	8	11	25	27
Scunthorpe	26	2	6	5	19	23	2	7	4	14	17	25
Walsall	27	3	6	5	14	18	1	7	5	12	15	25
Yeovil	27	4	2	8	17	24	1	7	5	13	21	24
Wycombe	27	4	2	8	17	24	2	3	8	16	25	23
Rochdale	27	2	6	5	14	22	2	3	9	10	27	21
Chesterfld	27	2	5	6	13	18	2	3	9	19	31	20

npower League Two

Aldershot	0	Acc Stanley	0
HT 0-0		Att 2,581	
Bradford	1	Burton Albion	1
Davies 43		Palmer 35	
HT 1-0		Att 9,744	
Cheltenham	0	Bristol R	0
Zebroski 60, Richards 63		Att 5,288	
HT 0-0			
Crewe	4	Dagenham	1
Ogogo 71 og		Woodall 17	
Dugdale 83			
Powell 86			
HT 1-1		Att 3,282	
Gillingham	3	AFC Wimbledon	4
Tornlin 4, 62		L Moore 60	
Kutfour 54		Richards 73 og	
HT 1-0		Midson 80 pen, 89	
Morecambe	1	Torquay	0
Haining 88		Ellis 17, Stevens 81	
HT 0-1		Att 1,800	
Northmptn	1	Barnet	0
Akinfenwa 10		Byrne 48	
HT 1-0		Holmes 59	
Oxford Utd	2	Hereford	0
Pittman 12		Duberry 32 og, 86 og	
Duberry 90		Att 6,630	
Plymouth	1	Crawley	0
Blanchard 90		Mills 45	
HT 0-1		Att 6,417	
Rotherham	0	Port Vale	1
		Richards 57 pen	
		Att 3,189	
Shrewsbury	2	Southend	1
Collins 53 pen		Hail 66	
Grandison 82		Att 5,601	
HT 0-0			
Swindon	1	Macclesfld	0
Benson 76		Att 7,639	
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Southend	26	7	4	2	21	9	9	0	4	30	19	52
Crawley	26	10	1	2	29	11	5	6	2	19	19	52
Cheltenham	26	9	2	3	19	8	7	2	3	10	15	49
Swindon	26	9	2	1	26	7	6	2	6	15	13	52
Shrewsbury	26	10	3	0	22	7	4	3	6	17	18	48
Torquay	26	6	5	2	25	17	6	3	4	15	15	44
Oxford Utd	27	5	5	2	23	14	5	3	5	15	13	42
Gillingham	27	5	2	2	22	12	5	2	7	22	23	41
Burton Alb	27	6	4	3	16	15	5	4	5	24	26	41
Acc Stanley	27	7	1	5	20	16	3	9	2	14	13	40
Crewe	27	5	2	6	19	19	7	1	6	18	19	39
Port Vale	27	5	2	6	24	21	6	3	5	20	18	38
Rotherham	26	6	2	5	18	14	4	5	4	24	25	37
Morecambe	27	3	4	7	23	21	6	5	2	20	13	36
AFC Wim'don	26	3	7	19	29	6	2	5	17	21	32	32
Macclesfld	26	5	6	3	16	10	3	0	9	8	19	30
Bristol R	27	4	3	7	17	23	4	3	6	17	25	30
Barnet	26	4	3	5	17	22	4	2	8	16	24	29
Aldershot	26	4	3	6	10	12	4	1	8	14	22	28
Bradford	26	5	4	5	23	19	1	5	6	8	17	27
Hereford	27	3	2	9	13	28	3	6	4	14	15	26
Plymouth	27	3	4	6	15	19	2	3	9	14	30	22
Dagenham	26	4	1	9	17	24	2	2	8	9	22	21
Northmptn	27	1	4	9	15	31	4	2	7	18	25	21

Clydesdale Bank Premier

Dundee Utd	1	Motherwell	1
Craig 28 og		Higdon 85	
HT 1-0		Att 5,969	
Hibernian	2	St Johnstn	0
Griffiths 70 pen		Croft 30	
Booth 84		Craig 71	
HT 0-1		Sandaza 87	



ACTION: Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku and Norwich City's Kyle Naughton battle for the ball during their side's 0-0 Barclay's Premier League draw at Carrow Road today.

Inverness CT	1	Hearts	0
Sutherland 49		Att 3,812	
HT 0-0			
Kilmarnock	0	Dunfrmlne	0
Barrowman 42		Cardie 60	
Buchanan 67		Att 4,016	
HT 0-0			
Rangers	1	Aberdeen	0
Edu 67		Arnason 63	
HT 0-0		Att 46,648	
St Mirren	0	Celtic	2
Brown 88		Forrest 71	
Att 6,129			
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	24	10	1	1	26	6	9	1	2	22	10	59
Rangers	24	8	4	0	22	8	9	0	3	21	6	55
Hearts	24	8	0	4	23	9	2	5	7	9	6	35
St Johnstn	23	4	1	7	14	17	6	4	1	15	7	35
Motherwell	22	3	3	4	7	10	7	2	3	18	16	35
Dundee Utd	24	3	4	5	12	13	3	5	4	21	25	27
Kilmarnock	23	5	4	3	20	19	1	5	5	7	15	27
Aberdeen	24	4	5	3	16	11	2	3	7	10	19	26
St Mirren	24	4	3	5	13	14	2	5	5	12	22	26
Inverness CT	24	2	5	13	16	3	2	7	17	24	25	25
Hibernian	23	1	4	7	12	21	3	2	6	12	20	18
Dunfrmlne	22	0	4	7	13	31	4	1	6	12	18	17

Scottish Division One

Ayr Utd	2	Hamilton	2									
Dodd 32		Spence 46										
Malone 45		Redmond 53										
HT 2-0		Att 1,310										
Livingston	2	Queen Sth	2									
Fox 40		Brighton 16										
Scougall 73		McGuffie 81 pen										
HT 1-1		Att 1,286										
Partick	0	Dundee	0									
HT 0-0		Att 2,425										
Raith	2	Falkirk	0									
Murray 27		El Alaiqui 36										
Baird 33		Dods 63										
HT 2-1		Att 2,026										
Ross Cnty	P	Morton	P									
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.												
<div>HOMEAWAY</div>												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ross Cnty	18	5	4	0	18	7	5	3	1	12	8	37
Falkirk	21	6	4	0	14	7	3	4	2	20	20	35
Dundee	21	4	1	5	12	10	6	3	2	18	10	34
Partick	20	5	3	3	17	8	2	3	4	7	10	27
Hamilton	20	3	2	4	15	16	4	3	4	11	21	26
Livingston	20	3	5	2	15	3	3	4	1	11	13	26
Morton	19	4	2	4	17	16	3	3	3	6	12	26
Raith	21	3	2	6	9	12	2	4	4	12	25	21
Ayr Utd	19	2	5	3	10	12	2	2	5	8	22	19
Queen Sth	21	3	3	3	4	12	14	3	7	7	11	18